DH on Saturday

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Byrathi Basavaraj gets interim anticipatory bail in murder case

P5

5 women on 4 bikes head for the Himalayas

Women riding motorbikes on the high-altitude Himalayan terrain is not a common sight. Today's *Saturday Story* spotlights the 4,000 km journey of five women—from Kozhikode, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad—who rode from West Bengal to the India-China border in Sikkim.

The SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 13

Lakshmi

Manjula

2 succumb to injuries; Mysuru cylinder blast toll rises to 3

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

The death toll in the blast from a gas cylinder used to fill balloons near the Mysuru Palace on Thursday night has risen to three.

Bengaluru-based tourist Lakshmi (45) and a flower vendor Manjula (29), who were critically injured, died at K R Hospital on Friday. They were both walking on the footpath when the blast occurred near the Jayamarthanda gate.

Lakshmi was the wife of an autorickshaw driver Rajesh in Bengaluru and had come to Mysuru with 11-year-old daughter Dimple, four-and-a-half-year-old son and sister-in-law Ranjitha, who is also injured and is being treated at a private hospital.

Lakshmi was walking on the footpath with them to catch a bus to reach a relative's home in Mysuru after visiting Himawad Gopalswamy Hill, Nanjangud Srikanteshwara temple and Mysuru Dasara Exhibition.

Balloon vendor Saleem (40) died on the spot due to the blast on Thursday.

The police are checking Saleem's antecedents. Saleem reportedly came to Mysuru from Tofia in Kannauj district of Uttar Pradesh 15 days ago and stayed in a lodge in Lashkar Mohalla.

▸ Mysuru, Page 6

'2,900 minority attacks in B'desh'

India flags 'unremitting hostilities' under interim govt headed by Yunus

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Friday said the "unremitting hostilities" against minorities in Bangladesh is a matter of "grave concern" as it demanded punishment to the perpetrators involved in the lynching of a Hindu youth in Mymensingh area last week.

New Delhi also reacted cautiously to the return to Dhaka of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) acting chairman Tarique Rahman after 17 years, saying it should be seen in the context of India's push for ensuring free, fair and inclusive parliamentary polls in that country.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India condemned the recent killing of Hindu youth Dipu Chandra Das and demanded action against those involved in the killing.

"The unremitting hostilities against the minorities in Bangladesh including Hindus, Christians and Buddhists at the hands of extremists is a matter of grave concern. We condemn the recent gruesome killing of a Hindu youth in Bangladesh and expect that the perpetrators of the crime would be brought to justice," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

Bangladeshi authorities have already arrested 12 people for Das's murder.

"Over 2,900 incidents of violence against minorities including cases of killings, arson and land grab have been documented by independent sources during the tenure of the interim government," Jaiswal said.

"These incidents cannot be brushed aside as mere media exaggeration or dismissed as political violence," he added.

Bangladesh has witnessed a fresh wave of unrest and political instability following the killing of youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi.

▸ Bangladesh, Page 6

BNP's Tarique Rahman arrives to pay tribute to his father in Dhaka. REUTERS

WHAT THE MEA SAID

Incidents involving minorities cannot be brushed aside as media exaggeration or dismissed as political violence

- Killing of another Hindu man is linked to deteriorating security situation and hostilities towards minorities in Bangladesh
- India supports free, fair and inclusive elections in Bangladesh and BNP leader Tarique Rahman's return "should be seen in that context"
- India has nothing to do with the death of youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi

AI skills now fetching freshers up to Rs 21L

Roles like applied AI/ML, cybersecurity in demand

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Armed with specialised skill sets, freshers in the Indian IT services industry are now commanding pay packages above Rs 10 lakh, which is twice the sum they were earning till recently.

For many years, freshers were paid between Rs 3.5 lakh and Rs 5 lakh per annum, depending on the stream and college from which they graduated. But things have started changing, thanks to Artificial Intelligence (AI), as it has created niche skills that can fetch even Rs 21 lakh per annum.

PREMIUM SKILLS

Freshers used to be paid between Rs 3.5 lakh and Rs 5 lakh per annum

- Now, many IT services firms are now offering up to Rs 11 lakh per annum to those with AI skills
- Job scene changing thanks to Artificial Intelligence as it has created niche skills

The country's second-largest IT services firm, Infosys, is now offering packages of up to Rs 21 lakh per annum for freshers hired for specialised technology roles. Infosys plans to onboard engineering and computer science students for specialised roles, and salaries will range from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 21 lakh per annum.

Specialised roles such as applied AI/ML, data engineering, cloud platform engineering, cybersecurity and product-grade full-stack are commanding higher pay packages.

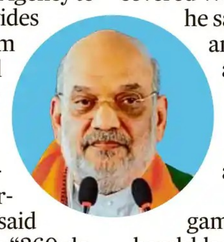
In a statement to *DH*, Infosys Group Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) Shaji Mathew said, "As in previous years, our early-career hiring strategy integrates both campus hiring to meet forecasted talent needs and off-campus hiring to support just-in-time requirements. While we have always offered multiple roles for early-career professionals, we have now expanded opportunities within the Specialist Programmer track. This includes compensation packages of up to Rs 21 lakh per annum."

Other IT services firms are offering pay packages up to Rs 11 lakh per annum.

▸ IT services, Page 6

Adopt common anti-terror squad structure, Shah tells states; launches crime database

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday urged states to soon adopt a common structure developed by the National Investigation Agency to fight terrorism, saying it provides all an opportunity for uniform preparation at every level while emphasising that acting in silos is like using guns without bullets.



Inaugurating the 'Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025' organised by the NIA, Shah also said they were planning to launch a "360-degree assault on organised crime" as such networks automatically come into contact with terrorist organisations when their leaders flee the country.

Releasing the Organised Crime Network Database and Lost/Looted and Recovered Weapon Database at the event, he said the database of terrorists and criminals should be made a core asset of the zero-terror policy and asked the state police chiefs to implement this database framework in letter and spirit.

Speaking about the Pahalgam terror attack and Delhi car bomb blast, he said both cases were "not ordinary policing" but "outstanding examples of watertight investigation".

▸ Amit Shah, Page 6

NOT VALID

P 10

SC: No automatic extension of expired driving licence

The Supreme Court has said that a driving licence cannot be automatically extended beyond its expiry. A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and S V N Bhatti said that after the Amendment Act, 2019, from the day after its expiry, the person holding an expired licence is not competent to drive the vehicle. Meaning, there is a legal disability for driving, the Supreme Court said.

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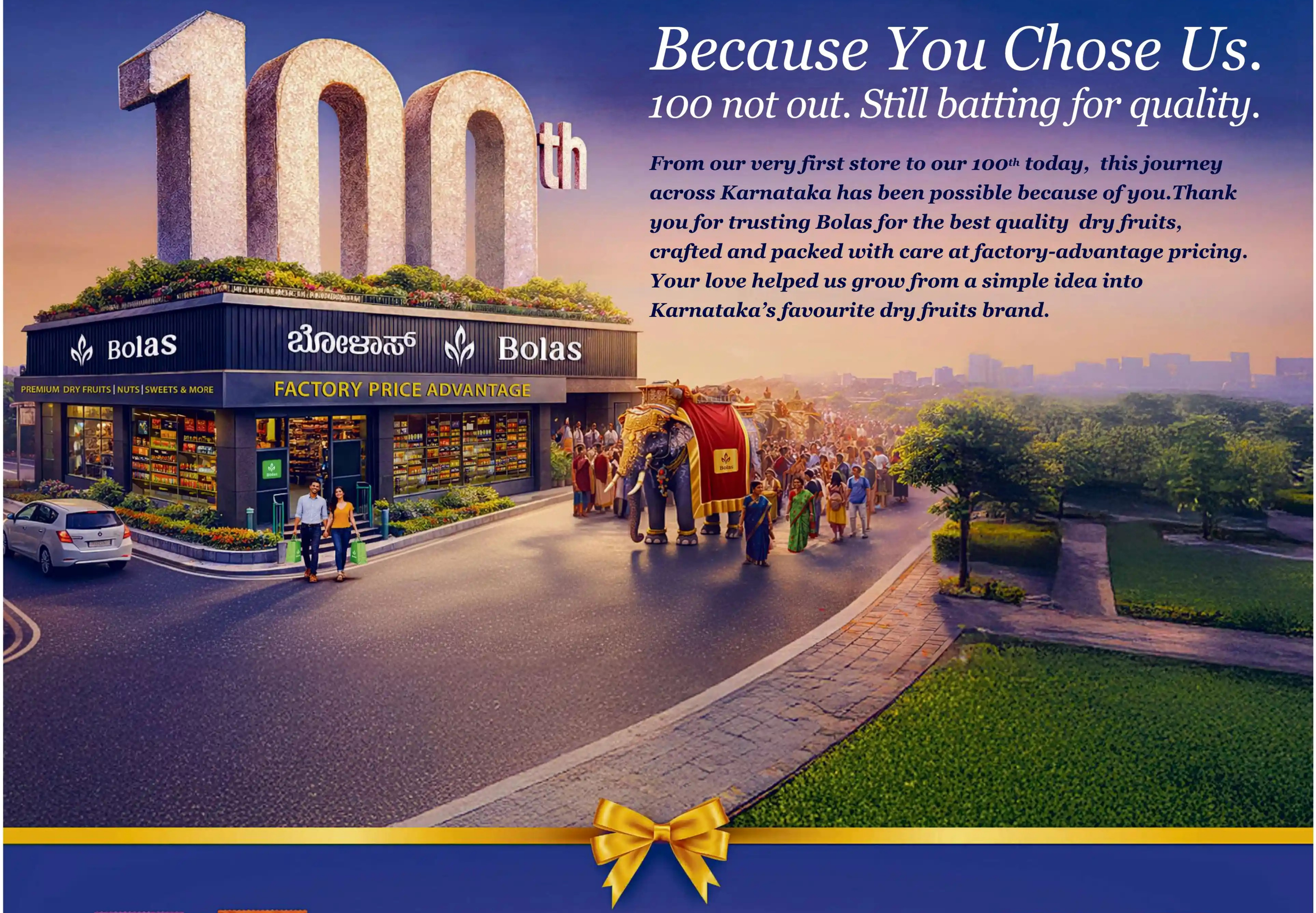

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Airport revises cab pickup rules, extends free wait time to 15 mins

Taxi drivers say new relaxations will not aid their business

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Modifying the new pickup rules at Terminal 1, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) on Friday extended the free parking duration at the pickup areas to 15 minutes.

Under the new pickup rules implemented at T1 on December 13, commercial vehicles not associated with BIAL must wait at parking zones P3 and P4. The complimentary parking period has been extended from 10 to 15 minutes, after which drivers will be charged Rs 100 for the first half hour and Rs 50 for every additional hour.

The designated parking areas can be accessed via shuttle buses operating at seven-minute intervals, in addition to buggies and cars available at T1.

However, cab drivers believe the new relaxations will not aid their business, which has been severely impacted in the past two weeks.

"Passengers don't want to walk all the way to P4 with their luggage, and who can blame them? As many passengers aren't yet aware of the new rules, they end up booking cabs on different aggregator platforms. When they realise they need to walk to P4 to get to the cab, they'll end up cancelling. As most drivers are now waiting outside the airport premises, we're just wasting our fuel on cancelled trips," said Nagaraj S, a 43-year-old taxi driver.

Karnataka Chalakara Okkuta, a Bengaluru-based taxi driver's union, met Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Friday to discuss the matter.

"The minister has understood our point of view and has already spoken on our behalf. All the unions are hopeful that we'll see positive changes soon. We plan to meet with the BIAL administration on Monday," G Narayanaswamy, president of the association, told *DH*.

Even as resistance to the new rules plays out on social media, passengers on the ground are slowly adapting.

An online petition calling for the new rules to be rolled back has garnered close to 1,000 signatures.

Many stay away from airport-authorised cab aggregators, believing that they are more expensive. "Booking on other platforms like Makemytrip is much cheaper. I used the shuttle provided to hail a cab at P4. My only gripe is that there could be better markings at P4, which would help passengers locate their cabs," said Shreeja, an RT Nagar resident.

Proposed lane for corporate taxis

On Friday, BIAL initially announced that a fifth lane would be dedicated to corporate yellow board vehicles. However, the statement was soon retracted.

As per the statement, slated to be enforced from December 28, corporate taxis will have to pay a fee of Rs 275 to access the lane for 15 minutes, located adjacent to Mitti Cafe and Shri Sagar. An airport source informed *DH* that the new lane for corporate taxis is likely to be launched in the coming days.

DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Parks, lakes to shut early on Dec 31

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Central and West City Corporations will close parks and lakes in their jurisdiction after 6 pm on December 31.

The decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to prevent untoward incidents during New Year celebrations.

"During New Year celebrations, there is a likelihood of large public gatherings at night. This may lead to untoward incidents and disturbance of public peace. Therefore, as a precautionary measure in the interest of public safety, entry to all parks and lakes under the jurisdiction of the corporation will be temporarily restricted after 6 pm on December 31," according to a statement issued by the corporations.

The government changed park timings in the city last year, allowing all municipal parks to remain open between 5 am and 10 pm. However, many parks did not follow the order, citing safety concerns.

After the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and five corporations, the Bengaluru South City Corporation announced that parks in its jurisdiction would be open only from 5 am to 11 am and from 4 pm to 8 pm.

Passenger gropes woman on metro train

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 45-year-old man was hauled up to a police station after he allegedly groped a young woman while travelling on a Namma Metro train, officials said.

The woman, however, alleged in a social media video that the police did not take strict action and instead showed sympathy towards the suspect, citing his age and intoxicated condition.

Muthappa, a native of Belagavi, allegedly touched the woman inappropriately and smiled, causing her severe discomfort. Enraged by his behaviour, she confronted him and alerted metro security personnel.

Security staff intervened and questioned the man. As the situation escalated, Muthappa reportedly apologised in public, even falling at the feet of people present at the Kempegowda (Majestic) Metro station. However, the woman took him to the jurisdictional Upparpet police station.

Police registered a Non-Cognisable Report (NCR) for indecent behaviour and let the man off after he apologised.

Muthappa, a housekeeper at a private company, was believed to be under the influence of alcohol when he was brought to the police station.

On Friday, the woman, a resident of Arekere, posted a video on Instagram alleging that the police did not take strict action and instead showed sympathy towards the suspect, citing his age and intoxicated condition.

She said she could not tolerate his behaviour as he repeatedly tried to touch her despite her moving away during the journey. After alighting at Majestic, she recorded a video of him while he was roaming around the metro station and allegedly smiling at her. She also admitted to slapping him before approaching security guards.

However, a senior officer from the Upparpet police station denied the allegations of inaction. He said the investigating staff had asked the woman to file a formal complaint, but her parents intervened and advised against registering an FIR. "Hence, an NCR was registered and the suspect's details were noted down," the officer told *DH*.

African prisoner assaults jail staff

BENGALURU, DHNS: A foreign national lodged at the Central Prison allegedly attempted to assault staff and threatened them with dire consequences during a surprise search for mobile phones.

Congolese national Lokonab Lodga Emmanuel (33) allegedly turned aggressive, abused jail staff, and attempted to obstruct a surprise inspection of barrack number 23 in the hospital division around 10 pm on December 24.

He reportedly issued threats that he would complain to the National Human Rights Commission against jail officials and attempted to assault staff after a Redmi handset was seized from his possession. He also allegedly assaulted other inmates and provoked group clashes. The inspection followed specific inputs about inmates possessing mobile phones. Senior jail officer Paramesh HA has filed a complaint in this regard at the Parappana Agrahara police station. The situation was brought under control without any injuries, the complaint added.

Police are probing how the mobile phone was smuggled into the jail and whether any staff members or external persons were involved.

Emmanuel, a habitual offender, was arrested by the KG Halli police in an NDPS case.

In letter to DyCM, GBA staff allege 'harassment' by Spl commissioner Moudgil

Official refutes charges, vows zero tolerance for corruption

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Municipal Officers and Employees' Welfare Association has written to Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, alleging mental harassment by Munish Moudgil, GBA Special Commissioner (administration, revenue, and IT).

Officials alleged that he had rolled out "unscientific" software systems and was "torturing" them by using "unparliamentary" words during video conferences.

"During a video conference at 8.30 every morning, he uses unparliamentary words against officials. Our family members who listen to it are also in deep distress," the letter states.

Pointing out that many officials from the Revenue Department have been working with the civic body for more than 30 years, the association said they had never seen such an "unreasonable" official.

Of the 12,000 sanctioned posts, nearly 8,800 are vacant, and the staff are working hard to ensure the public is not inconvenienced, they said.

Between August and September this year, six officials from the GBA's Revenue Department died due to stress, the letter alleged.

Recently, the GBA suspended a zonal deputy commissioner and a revenue officer for rejecting an e-khata application on "false grounds". The employees' association condemned the action and has been holding protests since.

However, Moudgil refuted the allegations, calling them "false and baseless".

"Such attempts appear to be aimed at shielding erring officers from accountability and undermining measures taken to protect citizens' rights. I remain firmly committed to transparency, accountability, and serving citizens, and will continue to discharge my duties accordingly," he said.

He added that nearly 25,000 e-khata applications were rejected in the last three months and that a special rejection audit was underway to examine these applications.

"The e-khata system, which directly concerns valuable property rights of citizens, must be transparent, pro-citizen and hassle-free, with zero tolerance for corruption, misconduct or harassment by any officer or staff member," he added.

MUNISH MOUDGIL,
GBA Special Commissioner (administration, revenue, and IT)

"The e-khata system, which directly concerns valuable property rights of citizens, must be transparent, pro-citizen and hassle-free, with zero tolerance for corruption, misconduct or harassment by any officer or staff member.

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◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Second Ayurveda World Summit: Nirmalanandanatha Swami, Gurusiddha Rajayogindra Swami, Vishwa Santosh Bharati Swami, Manohar, KN Channegowda, BA Patil, Shobha Malavalli and Raja BS to attend; Kaje Ayurvedic Charitable Foundation; Royal Senate and The Grand Castle, Palace Grounds (Gate No 6); 9 am onwards.

13th Anniversary and Panchajanya Award: Dushyant Sridhar and Ashok Haranahalli to attend; Panchajanya Pratishtana; Viveka Sabhangana, Jayanagar 4th Block; 9.30 am.

Workshop: Dhatu International Puppet Festival; Mandala Cultural Centre; 10 am onwards

Farmers' Market and Farmers' Day celebration: Siddaramaiah, N Chaluvarayaswamy, DK Shivakumar, MB Patil and Krishna Byre Gowda to attend; University of Agricultural Sciences; Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK; 10.30 am.

Lecture, poetry meet, music and quiz on the birth anniversaries of SR Puttanna Kanagal and Ravikiran (MK Ravindranath): S Shivalingappa, Hi-Tech Venugopal and Yerriswamy H participate; Kalachandira Kalamandira Trust; Women's Lounge, Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 2.30 pm.

CULTURAL

Bengaluru International Classical Dance Festival – Bharatanatyam: Performers: Manasi Ganesh, Sahana Balasubramanyam, Niharika Rajeev and Srinidhi Ganeshan; Shantala Arts Trust, Surya Performing Arts; Seva Sadan, Malleswaram 14th Cross; 10 am onwards.

Swara Sandhya: Vocal: Smt Devi Mysore, Vinod Digrajkar; Tabla: Sumit Naik, Shrivats Koulgi; Harmonium: Madhusudhan Bhatt, Vighnesh Bhagavat; Saptaka Bengaluru; Indian Institute of World Culture; 5.30 pm.

Geetanataka 'Somiya Saubhagya' performance: Direction: Ganesh Mandarthi; Department of Kannada and Culture, Yaksha Rangayana Karkala; Suchitra Cinema Academy; 7 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.8°C
Minimum	17.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	45%
Sunset (December 27)	6:01 pm
Sunrise (December 28)	6:39 am
Moonrise	11:11 am
Moonset	11:25 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

SRI JAGADGURU MURUGARAJENDRA BRIHANMATH
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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public, pursuant to the order of the Governing Board of Shri Jagadguru Murugarajendra Brihanmath and S.J.M. Vidyapeeth, Chitradurga, that all movable and immovable properties under Shri Jagadguru Murugarajendra Brihanmath and S.J.M. Vidyapeeth cannot be mortgaged, alienated, sold or purchased by any other person without the prior notice of the Governing Board.

However, it has been announced through a public notice that if anyone is found to mortgage, alienate, sell or purchase the movable and immovable properties belonging to these institutions, appropriate legal action will be taken against such persons & the persons who have acquired the property.

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Uttar Pradesh
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to
Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (UPSTDC)
Interested Parties may download the RFP document from the e-tender website https://etender.up.nic.in from 27th December, 2025
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DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
Government of Uttar Pradesh (India)
Paryatan Bhawan, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010
UttarPradeshTourism UttarPradeshTourism uptourismgov UttarPradeshTourism

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- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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Flagging Off of
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by
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti

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RENTS SOAR, LAWS STAGNANT

Rent reforms in B'luru: Myth vs reality

While social media posts talk about many reforms for house rental rules, the reality is far from it. The latest amendments have decriminalised some offences but have made no significant improvements

SHREE DN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Instagram reels discussing the new Model Tenancy Act and the requirement that homeowners accept only two months of rent as deposits from tenants have gone viral. Many tenants believe the law was much needed, while landlords are concerned about the supposed provisions posted on social media.

However, despite widespread social media reports, the Union government has not enacted any such new central rent law that automatically applies across all states. This is because, under the Indian Constitution, tenancy and rent fall under Entry 18 of the State List (List II), meaning only state legislatures can enact binding rent/tenancy laws that apply within their territories. The Union government cannot unilaterally legislate rent control for all states.

Even the Karnataka government has not passed any such law that helps tenants or landlords in any way, or makes life simpler for both.

The Union's Model Tenancy Act, 2021, mandates a two-month rent cap for residential premises as a deposit. It provides a template for states to reform rental laws, protect landlords' and tenants' rights, and improve dispute resolution mechanisms.

In 2021-22, the Karnataka government considered adopting the Model Tenancy Act to replace parts of the old rent regime, including the outdated Rent Control Act. But that proposal is currently in cold storage.

Thus, the 2021 central act on which social media reels are based is not enforceable in Bengaluru or Karnataka, as the relevant acts and amendments in Karnataka do not specify a two-month rent cap. It must be drafted by the state legislature and passed to acquire legal standing in the state.

Karnataka's amendment debate

Bengaluru has about 2.5 million recorded properties inside the city limits. Most of these are residential homes, and the majority are likely rented or rentable, but the government does not publish an official count of how many are actively rented. However, it is indisputable that property rentals are a point of dispute for many here.

"My owner hikes rents based on his whim. Last time he increased it from 30,000 per month to 33,000 per month, a 10% increase rather than 5%. He also does not want us to cook non-veg at home, and objects if I host people at home," complains a 30-year-old resident of Nandini Layout, who preferred anonymity.

It resonated with the observers of the assembly sessions when BJP MLA and former revenue minister S Sureshkumar spoke on the floor of the house about the plight of tenants.

"When I started my practice as an Advocate in 1981, the Rent Control Act was powerful. There were House Rent Courts (HRC). The situation has changed, and the Rent Control Act is no longer relevant. It appears that there is no protection left for tenants. Rents are rising, and rent increases are accelerating. There is no cap on this. Middle and lower-middle-class families are suffering. I urge the government to take measures and formulate guidelines to ensure protection for those tenants," he had stated.

In response, Krishna Byregowda, the revenue minister, agreed with Sureshkumar but stated that the current situation is driven by market developments, in which checks and balances are supposed to function automatically.

"But everyone has forgotten the main intent of the original law. If this is reactivated, it is possible to find solutions to the problems of the tenants, and the government will focus on the same," he had stated.

The debate in the assembly was diluted as legislators objected to the bill's ambiguous language and poor translation. And the law got passed anyway.

The new amendments decriminalised minor offences under the Karnataka Rent Act, 1999, committed by landlords and tenants. It removed imprisonment provisions for many offences, and moved enforcement toward monetary penalties and adjudication by Rent Controllers rather than criminal courts.

The 10-month rent as an advance

However, there is currently no amendment applicable to tenants that requires them to pay only two months' rent as a deposit before renting a property. Currently, all landlords demand 10 months' rent as an advance deposit before renting a property, whereas in many other cities, homeowners require only 3 months' rent as a deposit.

Ramesh Verma, a broker based in Mahalakshmipuram, discusses the problems associated with the 10-month-advance structure.

"Many owners charge the tenants astronomically for minor repairs. It's fine to deduct painting charges, but some homeowners take undue advantage of the situation," he adds.

He explains how. "Out of the 10 months' deposit they take, there are examples of two or three months being returned, and sometimes nothing is returned as well. Owners do not allow tenants to make the repairs themselves, citing concerns about the quality of the work. They choose to do it themselves and charge the tenants extra."

Sandeep Nadahalli, a resident of South Bengaluru, explains how the homeowners exploit the tenants.

"They deduct two months of rent from the advance for painting. But when we get new rented homes, we see that they may not have painted the houses properly; they would have done only touch-ups here and there to make it look good and not full painting."

Verma states that there was no mechanism for tenants to lodge complaints until now. He says there needs to be a mechanism established for tenants to air their grievances.

Most people have never heard of rent controllers, who are basically tahsildars or assistant commissioners of the respective areas. There is no publicly available information on this.

Homeowners' arguments

Even if, theoretically, two months' rent could be collected as deposits, homeowners argue that it will not work.

"To paint a minimum basic two-bedroom house today costs Rs 30,000 to Rs 40,000. Earlier, it was around Rs 12,000 to Rs 15,000. Painting costs have really gone up. Plus minor repairs, the cost will cross two months of rent," explains Srikanth S P, a home owner from South Bengaluru.

"Rented properties attract more property tax. The annual tax can easily be a month's rent or more, depending on the property. Commercially rented properties attract even higher rents," he adds, pointing out why a two-month advance system is not enough for a homeowner.

"Not everyone will be the same. Some people might keep things well-maintained. But some will damage the geyser, wash basin or other household equipment and will not repair it. All these things will cost me. I have faced it," Srikanth explains.

"As owners, if we take just two months of advance, how do we recover all these repair costs? The owner has no rights. If the tenant intends to vacate the premises within the next two months and does not pay the rent, we can't deduct the rent from the advance if there is insufficient advance. Where should I recover the painting cost? Or the light or water bill for those months?" he asks.

He adds that if a tenant fails to pay apartment maintenance, the burden also falls on the homeowner; therefore, limiting the advance to 10 months is impractical.

Registering the rental agreement

Another myth widely circulated is the need to register a house rental agreement. Unregistered agreements are not helpful during disputes, say legal experts.

The Karnataka Rent Act 1999 requires rental agreements to be in writing and filed with an authority, but it does not require registration under the Registration Act. However, for a resident to obtain an Aadhaar card at their current rental address, many Aadhaar enrolment centres require that the rental agreement be registered with the Sub-Registrar's Office.

Nadahalli argues that, if enforced, the registration of rental agreements would be beneficial from a safety perspective for both owners and tenants. "There may be tax evaders or people with questionable backgrounds; registration helps in such cases. But it should be easy. If the process is easy, I will happily register," he adds.

Srikanth says that, if registration is required, it should be made online, as visiting the sub-registrar's office is impractical. "We don't have an online system yet for this," he adds.

Registering with the sub-register's office incurs a fee. Who bears the cost, especially in a city like Bengaluru, where there is a floating population and job scenarios change quickly, asks Srikanth.

Feedback:
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

METRO

YOUNG PULSE

Sree Venkateshwara English Nursery, Primary and High School, KR Puram, organised Yugotsava, its 48th Annual Day, on December 23. Yoga guru Yogi Devaraj; Govt First Grade College (Varthur) Principal C Chandrappa; K V Muniswamy, Chairman, SVES; Nandini, Headmistress (Nursery); Chandraiah, Vice Principal (Degree), Geethanjali, Headmistress (High School); Revathi Bhat; Ravi V M, Managing Director Vishala, HM (Primary School) and Rame Gowda, Cluster Resource Person, Bengaluru South 4 were present.

'Brides of India' showcase on at Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's leading and most trusted jewellery brands, is hosting the Bengaluru edition of its flagship 'Brides of India' campaign at its M G Road showroom. The showcase is on till tomorrow, bringing a culturally-rooted bridal jewellery experience to the heart of the city.

Bridal jewellery presented as a complete wedding look at an in-showroom experience at 'Brides of India'

Now in its 15th year, 'Brides of India' has evolved into one of India's most recognised bridal jewellery properties. The campaign celebrates the diversity of Indian bridal traditions and the deeply personal role jewellery plays in weddings across regions, communities and generations.

M P Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "Brides of India has always been our way of honouring the emotional and cultural significance of bridal jewellery in India. Each edition reflects how brides today remain rooted in tradition while expressing their individuality through design and choice. This showcase allows families to explore jewellery that reflects both heritage and contemporary sensibilities, backed by Malabar's commitment to quality and transparency."

The Bengaluru showcase focuses on south Indian bridal jewellery, highlighting temple-inspired craftsmanship, traditional gold silhouettes and designs created for extended ceremonial wear. Alongside this, you can explore curated bridal styles from other regions of India, enabling families to build a complete wedding trousseau.

The campaign showcased a thoughtfully curated in-showroom experience, with bridal jewellery presented as complete wedding looks. This approach helped customers visualise how different pieces come together across ceremonies. The collection on display includes necklaces, chokers, long necklaces, bangles, bridal earrings, mangalsutras and rings, crafted with a clear focus on purity, balance, finish and comfort during extended celebrations.

DH Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Curated by DH Brandspot

Nurse arrested for killing colleague after argument over marriage

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have arrested a 25-year male nurse for murdering his colleague and lover, who was 14 years his senior.

The murder was reported in Pragathipura in southern Bengaluru's Kumaraswamy Layout on Tuesday, while the suspect was arrested on Thursday soon after the incident came to light, police said.

The deceased, Mamatha, a native of Hiriyur in Chitradurga district, lived with a female colleague in a rented house in Pragathipura.

Police said Mamatha had been in a relationship with C Sudhakar (25), who also worked at Jayadeva Hospital. The couple started fighting recently after Sudhakar got engaged to another woman.

On Tuesday afternoon, he had come to meet Mamatha and she pressured Sudhakar to marry her, leading to a heated argument. In a fit of rage, he allegedly picked a kitchen knife and slit her throat, killing her on the spot.

To "mislead" the police and make the killing look like a murder for gain, he allegedly took away Mamatha's gold chain before fleeing the scene. A broken piece was found at the crime scene, a senior police officer said.

The incident remained under wraps until the next evening after her family members asked the landlord to check on her, saying she wasn't answering phone calls. The landlord entered the house with a spare key and was stunned to find Mamatha lying in a pool of blood in the bedroom. He called the police.

Based on a complaint lodged by her brother Shankar, police have registered a case of murder and further investigations are on.

Newly married woman dies; husband, in-laws booked for dowry harassment

BENGALURU, DHNS

A newly married woman who allegedly tried to kill herself following a quarrel with her husband during her honeymoon has succumbed to her injuries.

Police have booked her husband and his family members under the Dowry Prohibition Act and are on the lookout for them.

Ganavi (26) allegedly attempted suicide by hanging herself at her parents' house in Ramamurthy Nagar on December 24. She was rushed to a hospital, where she died late Thursday night, police said.

After the post-mortem, Ganavi's family brought her body to her in-laws' house in Vidyaranyapuram and staged a flash protest.

They held Suraj, his mother Jayanti, and brother Sanjay responsible for the death and demanded their immediate arrest.

They alleged that her in-laws fled after learning about the suicide attempt and that none of them was present when the body was brought to their house.

Police intervened, citing law and order concerns, and allowed only 10 family members to stage a silent protest, with the body placed outside the house for a few minutes. The scene turned emotional, with Ganavi's mother breaking down.

Ganavi, an MBA graduate, was married into what her parents described as a well-off family two months ago.

However, her family alleged that Suraj, along with his mother and brother, subjected Ganavi to relentless dowry harassment.

Grand reception

According to the FIR, a grand reception was organised at Palace Grounds on October 29, with her family reportedly spending around Rs 40 lakh. Soon after the wedding, however, she was allegedly harassed over gold ornaments and dowry.

The couple had travelled to Sri Lanka for a 10-day honeymoon but returned to Bengaluru within five days after frequent arguments. The family claimed Suraj sent her back to her parental home repeatedly, pushing her into distress that ultimately led to her suicide, police said.

SEASONAL STRAIN

Trapped pollution, cold air trigger 'winter cough', doctors warn

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the mercury falling considerably in different parts of Bengaluru and never-ending construction adding to pollution, more and more people are suffering from cold, cough, wheezing and chest congestion.

Children, the elderly and people already diagnosed with respiratory issues have been the worst affected, doctors say.

Cold winter air causes airways to constrict and slows the tiny hair-like structures in the lungs, allowing viruses and dust to get trapped more easily and creating a favourable environment for infections, doctors explain.

Speaking about the dangerous combination of cold and pollution, Dr Basavaraj S. Kumbar, Consultant (Internal Medicine), said: "In winter, a layer of cool air gets trapped near the ground, with a layer of warmer air sitting on top of it. Because of this, smoke from cars, construction dust and industrial fumes cannot escape and remain at nose level. As a result, many people develop a 'winter cough' that does not go away with normal cold medicine. It is irritation from the trapped pollution."

Explaining the vulnerability of the elderly population, he added: "As a person gets older, the lungs lose a certain amount of their elasticity or 'spring', while the immune system takes longer to react. The body also works much harder to keep warm. This puts a strain on the heart and lungs."

Speaking about the increased duration of illness, Dr Suchismitha Rajamanya, Lead Consultant and HoD (Internal Medicine), said: "It appears that many respiratory symptoms are taking longer to subside this season. In most cases, this is due to continued pollution and irritation of the airways that delays recovery, even though the infection has already cleared."

Effects on child health

Doctors have also noted an increase in children presenting with breathing difficulties despite having no prior history of asthma or lung disease.

Dr P. Samira Narayan, Senior Specialist (Paediatric Pulmonology), said, "Children are mostly presenting with upper respiratory infections (URIs), asthma flare-ups, viral-induced wheeze, bronchitis and pneumonia. Asthma and viral-induced wheeze cases have risen sharply due to seasonal changes and the drop in temperature."

Govt halves rates of plots at Ballari jeans park

Plans to provide common effluent treatment plant

BALLARI, DHNS

The state government has halved the rates of plots in the jeans park at Ballari. The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board is developing the park on around 650 acres. A total of 173 sites of various dimension are being formed in the first phase on 154.70 acres.

The government had fixed a price of Rs 1.35 crore per acre of land previously. The government anticipated encouraging response from the entrepreneurs for the plots at the world-class park.

However, it is said that local businessmen did not show much interest and had made a representation to the government requesting to reduce the price.

The KIADB is forming 75 sites of quarter acre, 47 plots of half acre, three plots measuring one acre, 45 plots measuring one and half acres, two plots of five acres and one plot of 10 acres.

The plots of small dimensions have been formed with the objective of attracting local tailors and small dyeing units. Now, the price has been fixed at Rs 67.5 lakh per acre.

A file photo of a jeans washing unit. The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board is developing the jeans park on around 650 acres in Ballari.

Bangla strife

The jeans industry in neighbouring Bangladesh is in trouble following the unrest there. Taking advantage of the situation, the government intends to expand jeans industry on a large scale in the state. Towards this end, it has acquired another 487 acres in Sanjeevarayanakote near Ballari, where it has been planned to accommodate large industries.

Water availability and common effluent treatment plant (CETP) are essential for jeans industries. Some units had to be shutdown during summer for lack of these facilities. Local entrepreneurs had insisted that they won't set shop in the park unless these facilities were made available.

Now, the government has come up with a plan for supplying five million litres per day (MLD) of water. Sources said that a detailed project report had been prepared for setting up a CETP.

It is learnt that the government has invited leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for the ground-breaking ceremony for the first stage of the jeans park.

GRT Jewellers receives two awards at National Jewellery Awards 2025

Since 1964, GRT Jewellers has grown from modest beginnings into one of India's most respected jewellery brands, admired for timeless designs, superior craftsmanship and the trust of generations of customers. Over six decades, the brand has built a lasting legacy of creating jewellery that celebrates life's most meaningful occasions. Today, GRT operates 66 showrooms - 65 across south India and one in Singapore - offering a wide collection in gold, diamonds, platinum, silver and precious gemstones.

Continuing this legacy of excellence, GRT Jewellers clinched two top honours at the 14th edition of the National Jewellery Awards (NJA) held on October 25, 2025, at the Jio Convention Centre, Mumbai. The brand received 'Earring of the Year (Colour Stone)' and 'Earring of the Year (Diamond)', marking yet another moment of glory in its illustrious journey. Recognised and presented by the Indian Association of Gold Excellence and Standards (IAGES) and the World Gold Council (WGC), the NJA remains one of the industry's highest acknowledgments of creativity, craftsmanship and innovation.

G R 'Anand' Ananthapadmanabhan, Managing Director, said, "This dual recognition is a proud moment for the entire GRT family. Every creation carries our dedication to artistry and our customers' dreams. We owe this achievement to our talented artisans and loyal patrons who continue to believe in us".

G R Radhakrishnan, Managing Director, said, "Awards like these remind us of our responsibility to keep innovating while staying rooted in tradition. We are deeply thankful to the NJA committee and our cherished customers for their constant support and trust."

Curated by DH Brandspot

Follow security norms or face action: Top cop warns pubs & hotels ahead of New Year

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ahead of New Year celebrations, the Bengaluru police top brass on Friday held a coordination meeting with owners and heads of hotels, pubs, clubs, bars, restaurants and other venues, issuing a set of strict guidelines to ensure public safety and order.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said organisers must obtain all mandatory permissions from the authorities and strictly adhere to the stipulated conditions.

Prescribed celebration timings must be followed, while separate permission is required for the use of sound systems, with noise levels kept within permissible limits.

Entry tickets or passes must be issued strictly as per the approved capacity of the venue, and serving alcohol to minors is prohibited. All visitors must be screened, and any suspicious persons or objects immediately reported to the police.

Fire safety equipment is mandatory, along with precautions to prevent fire accidents or stampedes. Organisers were also instructed to ensure alternate power supply arrangements.

At venues where women are present in large numbers, women security personnel must be deployed. Frisking of men should be carried out by male staff, while women and children must be frisked only by female personnel. Measures must be taken at entry and exit points, parking areas and within the premises to prevent overcrowding.

CCTV cameras must be installed within venues and footage preserved for at least 30 days. Where feasible, road-facing cameras should be linked to the Police Command Centre.

Organisers must immediately inform the local police station about any information related to narcotics. Smoking is banned inside event venues except in designated areas, and "No Smoking/No Narcotic Substances" signboards must be displayed prominently.

Parking must be limited to designated areas within premises, with no parking allowed on public roads. Ensuring the safe return of guests will be the responsibility of the establishments.

Security agencies and bouncers must be registered under the Private Security Agencies Regulation Act, with verified details submitted in advance. Any violations will invite strict legal action against organisers and venue owners.

Techie & father killed, four others injured in Nelamangala car crash

BENGALURU, DHNS

A celebratory Christmas trip turned into a nightmare for a Bengaluru family after a horrific road accident claimed two lives and left four others battling for survival at Thotagere Cross near Nelamangala on Thursday evening, officials said.

The deceased are Harish (39), a software engineer from Dasarahalli, and his father, Veerabhadra (80).

Police said the family had travelled to their hometown of Gauribidanur on Thursday morning to visit their farm and spend time with relatives during the Christmas holidays.

The accident occurred around 7.30 pm while they were returning to Bengaluru.

Harish was behind the wheel of the car, travelling via the Railway Gollahalli-Hesaraghatta route. Near a sharp turn at Thotagere Cross, he reportedly attempted to overtake a truck. In order to avoid a head-on collision with another truck coming in the opposite direction, he swerved to the right.

Due to poor visibility in the dark, the car veered off the road and crashed with immense force into a roadside tree.

The impact was so severe that both Harish and Veerabhadra sustained fatal injuries and died on the spot. Four other occupants of the car sustained injuries.

Passersby and local police rushed the injured to a private hospital in Nelamangala, where they are currently undergoing treatment.

The Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case. Further investigations are underway to determine if speeding or road conditions contributed to the crash.

Co-op Societies Act: Addl registrar can cancel illegal allotment, sale deed, says HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a dispute under Section 70 of the Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act, the Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies (ARCS) can cancel the allotment and sale deed, executed and registered improperly or illegally, according to the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj ruled this on a petition filed by Suresha, a resident of Bengaluru, who was the subsequent purchaser of a site at Channasandra in Uttarahalli hobli in the Bengaluru South taluk.

The controversy is related to a site measuring 4,026 sqft, in a layout formed by the BEML Employees Cooperative Society in Channasandra.

The site was allotted by the society in favour of B M Yogesh, and the sale deed was executed on January 19, 2013.

On March 11, 2013, Yogesh sold the site to Bhaskar, who had subsequently relinquished his 50% share in the property to Suresha under a registered release deed on October 9, 2015.

After the change in the governing body of the society, a dispute was filed before the Additional Registrar of Cooperative Society.

The plea sought directions to J Munnagappa and N Ramakrishna, former president and vice president, respectively, to pay Rs 62,05,300 at 18% interest per annum and cancel the sale deed dated January 19, 2013.

The society contended that the sale deed was executed in favour of Yogesh ignoring the seniority of other members. It moved the Karnataka Appellate Authority after the Additional Registrar rejected the plea.

In his petition before the high court, Suresha challenged the Appellate Authority's July 2020 order directing the Additional Registrar to consider the plea afresh.

According to Suresha, once the sale is executed and registered, the Additional Registrar of Cooperative Society cannot decide whether the allotment made by the society was valid.

'Remedy available'

However, the society argued that if any of its office-bearers were to act contrary to the by-laws, it was not required to approach the civil court because a remedy is available under Section 70.

Justice Govindaraj said that a subsequent committee or an administrator of the society cannot be expected to take action by filing a civil suit to right the wrong committed by the earlier governing body.

He added that even if a further sale deed is executed by the member, who had received the undue benefit, proceedings under Section 70 would be maintainable against such third party.

"..the Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies could, in a dispute raised before him under Section 70 of the KCS Act, 1959, cancel the allotment that is improperly or illegally made, and thereafter cancel the sale deed improperly or illegally executed, even if it is so registered," Justice Govindaraj said.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर
(e-mail address - eercdjamshed-jhr@nic.in, Phone No.-0657-2227724)

शुद्धि पत्र

पथ प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर अंतर्गत Reconstruction of Road from Kating More to Hurumbil via Samajobra Dandudih Road (Job No. CRF-JHR-2025-26 FY 2025-26 (Total Length 19.135 km) के ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या –e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/ 2650, Date 24.12.2025 (पी0आर0 नं0 369324 Road (25-26):D] Dt. 25.12.2025) (Tender ID: 2025_CECOM_108176_1) को निम्नवत् संशोधित किया जाता है :–

SBD के National Competitive Bidding में बिन्दु 10 अंकित कर निम्न रूप से पढ़ा जाय।

" 10. Change in Price of Bitumen will be admissible as per RCD Notification Number 405 (S) Dt. 31.01.2004 & Letter No. 4469 (S) Dt. 26.07.2011 of Engineer in Chief, R.C.D., Jharkhand, Ranchi."

शेष सूचनायें यथावत् रहेंगी।

अधीक्षण अभियंता–सह–कार्यपालक अभियंता,
PR.NO.369475 Road(25-26):D पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर।

Admin-12011(14)/6/2025-eoffice

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DRUGS SECTION)

****

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation invites application from eligible candidates for filling up the post as mentioned below at Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation on deputation basis. The last date for receiving the applications will be within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

2. For further details please visit CDSCO's website https://cdsco.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Pay as per 7th CPC	No. of Post	Office for which the posts is filled up
1.	Head Cleark, Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial	Pay Level-6 (Rs. 35400 - 112400) of pay matrix of 7th CPC	04	Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

Sd/-
Director (Admn.)
CDSCO, HQ, Director General Health Services,
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002

CBC 17194/11/0020/2526

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Chennai Division (Mechanical Branch)

E-Tender Notice No. M/M/W271/EPPPS CAI WORK Date : 23.12.2025

Divisional Railway Manager / Mechanical Branch / Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites **ONLINE** tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) intending to apply for GeM-tender for Mechancial works in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Description	**Outsourcing of "Supply and installation of metallic (brass) Y strainer (3/4"), NRV 1/4" (SS) and Shifting of the Pressurizer unit (cylinder) of EPPFS and PFS fitted in LLB coaches at BBQ, GSN & TBM coaching depots for a period of one year.**
Location	**Chennai**
Advertised tender Value in	**Rs. 59,94,423.60/-**
Earnest Money Deposit in	**Rs. 1,19,900.00/-**
Similar Nature of work	**Applicable**
Period of completion in months	**12 Months**

Tender closing date and time 13.01.2026 @ 16.00 hrs. Details of value of tender, EMD are given in e-portal **www.ireps.gov.in**
For details bid submission please refer to web portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical),
Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 600 003.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

APPLICATION NOTIFICATION NO. 565/STBA/12-02/2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for engagement of station Ticket booking agents (STBA) at the following railway station over Bengaluru Division of south western railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through unreserved ticket system (UTS) on commission basis for a period of Three (03) years:

Sl.No.	Name of the Station	Section Code	Station Category
1.	Dodballapur	DBU	NSG-5

Last date for Submission of Application : **Upto 10.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on 27.01.2026**

For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager,
Bengaluru
PUB/770/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS Moblie App** from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SPECIAL BRANCH, POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
NO.SB / Store/2025-25 (624) Bhopal, Dated: 17-12-2025

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tendcr are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

S.No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
			Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in		
1	Smart Lecture Hall	01	2,000/-	24,000/-	1st Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through whebsite **https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police **(www.mppolice.gov.in.)**
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders **website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

4. Tender Schedule

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	E-Tender Publish Date	17/12/2025 at 1700 hrs.
ii	Tender document download Start Date-	17/12/2025 up to 1730 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in**	**23/12/2025 up to 1700 hrs.**
iv	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	24/12/2025 at 1200 hrs.
v	Bid Submission Start Date	25/12/2025 at 1000 hrs;
vi	Last date of online e-Tender submission	15/01/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	Bid will be opened on	16/01/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	Demonstration from	Demo date will be announced separately

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this web site only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6.Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

D.I.G. of Police
G-23371/25 Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal Tel. No. 0755- 2443654

E-AUCTION LEASING FOR PARCEL SPACE

E-Auction for the contract of leasing of SLRs for 03 years in trains originating from Lumding Division. **Description:** Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single compartment), **Category:** Parcel SLR. **Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee.

Auction Catalogue No. LEASE-LMG-58-25

Seq No.	Lot No.	Trips
AA/1	15634-SLR-F1-GHY-BKN-25-3	157
AA/2	15077-SLR-F1-KYQ-GTNR-25-1	157
AA/3	15603-SLR-F2-GHY-LEDO-25-2	1096
AA/4	15602-SLR-F2-GHY-DBB-25-2	1096
AA/5	15669-SLR-F2-GHY-DBRG-25-2	1096
AA/6	15602-SLR-F1-GHY-DBB-25-2	1096
AA/7	15632-SLR-F1-GHY-BME-25-2	157
AA/8	15653-SLR-F1-GHY-JAT-25-2	157
AA/9	15648-SLR-F1-GHY-LTT-25-2	157
AA/10	22512-SLR-F1-KYQ-LTT-25-2	157
AA/11	15815-SLR-F1-GHY-DKGN-25-2	1096
AA/12	15669-SLR-R1-GHY-DBRG-25-2	1096
AA/13	15602-SLR-R1-GHY-DBB-25-2	1096
AA/14	15640-SLR-F1-KYQ-PURI-25-1	157
AA/15	15668-SLR-F1-KYQ-GIMB-25-1	157
AA/16	15662-SLR-F1-KYQ-RNC-25-1	157
AA/17	19306-SLR-F1-KYQ-DADN-25-1	157
AA/18	12518-SLR-F1-GHY-KOAA-25-2	157
AA/19	15644-SLR-F1-KYQ-PURI-25-2	157
AA/20	15754-SLR-F2-GHY-APDJ-25-2	1096
AA/21	15665-SLR-F2-GHY-MXN-25-4	1096
AA/22	15665-SLR-R1-GHY-MXN-25-2	1096
AA/23	15669-SLR-F1-GHY-DBRG-25-2	1096
AA/24	12552-SLR-F1-KYQ-SMVB-25-1	157
AA/25	15651-SLR-F1-GHY-JAT-25-2	157
AA/26	13247-SLR-F1-KYQ-ARA-25-2	627
AA/27	15603-SLR-F1-GHY-LEDO-25-2	1096
AA/28	15815-SLR-F2-GHY-DKGN-25-2	1096
AA/29	15620-SLR-F1-KYQ-GAYA-25-1	157
AA/30	15636-SLR-F1-GHY-OKHA-25-2	157
AA/31	12510-SLR-F1-GHY-SMVB-25-2	471
AA/32	15754-SLR-R1-GHY-APDJ-25-2	1096
AA/33	15815-SLR-R1-GHY-DKGN-25-2	1096
AA/34	19616-SLR-F1-KYQ-UDZ-25-1	157
AA/35	12088-SLR-F1-GHY-NHLN-25-2	469
AA/36	15754-SLR-F1-GHY-APDJ-25-2	1096
AA/37	15665-SLR-F1-GHY-MXN-25-2	1096
AA/38	22449-SLR-F1-GHY-NDLS-25-2	314

Auction Start Date & Time: 11.00 hrs. & **Closing Date & Time: 17.40** hrs. on **08-01-2026**.

Auction Catalogue No. LEASE-LMG-59-25

Seq No.	Lot No.	Trips
AA/1	15630-SLR-F1-SHTT-TBM-25-1	157
AA/2	15609-SLR-F1-GHY-SANG-25-2	1096
AA/3	12504-SLR-F1-AGTL-SMVB-25-1	314
AA/4	15418-SLR-R1-SHTT-APDJ-25-1	470
AA/5	13126-SLR-F1-SANG-KOAA-25-1	470
AA/6	12520-SLR-F1-AGTL-LTT-25-1	157
AA/7	15641-SLR-F1-SCL-NTSK-25-1	157
AA/8	15618-SLR-F1-DLCR-GHY-25-1	470
AA/9	15663-SLR-F1-AGTL-SCL-25-3	1096
AA/10	13182-SLR-F1-SHTT-KOAA-25-1	156
AA/11	15626-SLR-F1-AGTL-DGHR-25-1	157
AA/12	20501-SLR-F1-AGTL-ANVT-25-1	157
AA/13	15817-SLR-F1-SKHV-NHLN-25-1	1096
AA/14	15616-SLR-R1-SCL-GHY-25-1	1096
AA/15	15618-SLR-R1-DLCR-GHY-25-1	470
AA/16	15610-SLR-F1-SANG-GHY-25-1	1096
AA/17	15664-SLR-F1-SCL-AGTL-25-2	1096
AA/18	12502-SLR-F1-AGTL-KOAA-25-1	157
AA/19	14619-SLR-F1-AGTL-FZR-25-1	157
AA/20	12516-SLR-F1-SCL-CBE-25-1	157
AA/21	15418-SLR-F1-SHTT-APDJ-25-1	470
AA/22	15418-SLR-F2-SHTT-APDJ-25-1	470
AA/23	15618-SLR-F2-DLCR-GHY-25-1	470
AA/24	13176-SLR-F1-SCL-SDAH-25-3	470
AA/25	13174-SLR-F1-SBRM-SDAH-25-4	627
AA/26	15616-SLR-F1-SCL-GHY-25-1	1096
AA/27	12508-SLR-F1-SCL-TVC-25-1	157
AA/28	15616-SLR-F2-SCL-GHY-25-1	1096
AA/29	20507-SLR-F1-SANG-ANVT-25-1	157

Auction Start Date & Time: 11.00 hrs. & **Closing Date & Time: 16.10** hrs. on **09-01-2026**. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Lot wise closing time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS.

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in** for more details.

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

E-Tender Notice No.: EL-LiftCAMC-OT-2025-26, Dated : 23.12.2025.

Dy. CME/HQ, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement portal (IREPS) for under mentioned works. **1. Name of the work with its location and completion period** : Comprehensive AMC of lifts (Make : Techno Industries) installed in Staff colony for 3 years at Rail Wheel Plant, Bela Dist. : Saran (Bihar), Completion Period : 36 Months., **2. Approx. cost of the work** : ₹ 5155593/- (Rs. Fifty One Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Three only inclusive of GST @ 18%)., **3. Earnest Money to be Deposited** : ₹ 103100/- (Rs. One Lakh Three Thousand One Hundred only), **4. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender** : Bid start from 31.12.2025 on **www.ireps.gov.in**, Tender Opening at 14.30 hrs. on 14.01.2026. **5.** Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : For full details and submission of bid kindly visit portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms/ bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/ information concerned that shall be published in newspapers.

Dy.CME/HQ, RWP, Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/92

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For on behalf of President of India, the General Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach Kolkata-700043 invites e-tender for the following works: **Tender No. : BR-HQ-KGP-25-26-12; Description of the work :** "Kharagpur Division" Conversion of existing bridges into Composite girders/Ballasted decks for running of 25T Axle loaded freight trains 100Kmph in (a) Bridge No. 69 DN (Span 4x18.3m) in between station Ghatshila-Dhalbhumgarh Bridge No. 94UP (Span 2x18.3m) in between station Jhargram-Gidhni (b) Bridge No. 217 UP (Span 9x18.3m) in between station Rajghat-Amarda (c) Bridge No. 235UP (Span 9x18.3m) in between station Basta-Nuagan Mayurbhanj Road (d) Bridge No. 235DN (Span 9x18.3m) in between station Nuagan Mayurbhanj Road-Basta (e) Bridge No. 264UP (Span 9x18.3m) in between station Haldipada-Balasore (f) Bridge No. 238 UP (Spun 3x12.2m) in between station Nuagan Mayurbhanj Road-Rupsa Junction & Bridge No. 239 UP (Span 2x12.2m+2x18.3m) in between station Nuagan Mayurbhanj Road-Rupsa (g) Bridge 239 DN (Span 2x12.2m+2x18.3m) in between station Rupsa Junction-Nuagan Mayurbhanj Road & Bridge No. 258 UP (Span 4x12.2m) in between station Haldipada-Balasore (h) Bridge No. 217DN (Span 9x18.3m) in between station Amardaroad-Rajghat & Br. No. 234UP (Span 5x12.2m) in between station Basta-Nuagan Mayurbhanj Road (i) Bridge No. 168DN (Span 4x12.2m+2x18.3m) in between station Bakhrabad-Narayangarh & Bridge No. 176 DN (Span 3x12.2m) in between station Belda -Bakhrabad." **Tender Value :** ₹ 125,56,63,525.18; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 64,28,300.00; **Tender Document Cost** : Nil; **Tender Closing Date Time :** 30.01.2026 - 11:30 hrs. **Period of Completion :** 24 (Twenty Four) Months; Interested Tenderer's may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description of the tenders and to know the status of this tender so as to submit their bids online. Physical/manual tender for this work will not be accepted. **(PR-998)**

For and on behalf of President of India, the Chief Engineer (Con)/I/GRC invites e-tender for the following works. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tender will be closed at 12:00 Hrs on due date : **e-Tender Notice No. : 4590-GRC-CE-C-01-21-2025; Brief Description of Works**: Composite work for Capacity Augmentation of ELS/BKSC to increase the homing capacity-Up to 300 locos (Ph-1) at ELS/BKSC, Creation of Advance maintenance facilities for Electric locomotives at ELS /BKSC & Creation of Trip Shed at ELS/ BKSC-Execution of Earthwork in Formation & Cutting including P. Way Linking Work with Ballasting including Loop Lines & Siding, Construction of Sheds & Service Building. Road & Platform, Circulating Area including other related work, including S&T & Electrical work in Bokaro of S. E. Railway; **Closing Date :** 22.01.2026; **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 65.54 Crore, **Bid Security:** ₹ 34,27,100/- & **Completion period:** 18 months; Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **NB:** "Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders." **(PR-1007)**

Kerala CM slams Cong over demolition drive in B'luru

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has strongly flayed the demolition of houses at Fakir Colony and Waseem Layout in Bengaluru.

Vijayan said in a social media post on Friday that the bulldozer demolition of homes at Fakir Colony and Waseem Layout, where scores of Muslims have been living over years, was really shocking and painful.

'Anti-minority moves'

"What is seen in Karnataka in yet another form of the anti-minority moves by Sangh Parivar outfits in northern states. The residents were forced to flee the place by demolishing their homes using bulldozers and pushing them to the streets during the peak winter. It is surprising that this is happening when the Congress is in power in Karnataka. An administration that should provide housing to the poor is indulging in such acts. How will the Congress justify such acts," Vijayan asked.

Alliance with BJP 'difficult' for urban local body polls: Gowda

Says JD(S) will fight on its own in some places

BENGALURU, DHNS

Former prime minister and JD(S) national president H D Deve Gowda, who had earlier said the alliance with BJP in the state will continue for all future elections, took a U-turn on Friday and said it is "difficult" to continue the alliance for the upcoming local body elections.

Addressing a news conference, he said, "The alliance with the BJP will continue for the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. But the alliance will be difficult for Urban Local Bodies, including Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and other local bodies."

Gowda clarified that the JD(S) would contest the Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat, and other local body elections without an alliance at places where it has strength. "We will fight on our own in some places," he said.

Responding to the recent statement by BJP state president B Y Vijayendra, Gowda further stated, "Is it possible to discuss alliance for local body elections with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah? .The BJP state president has already clarified his stand on the issue."

Vijayendra recently said that the BJP alone would win 130-140 seats if the elections were held immediately in the state. According to sources, the JD(S) supremo is peeved by this claim.

H D DEVE GOWDA
Former prime minister and JD(S) supremo

"Is it possible to discuss alliance for local body elections with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah? The BJP state president has already clarified his stand on the issue.

'Is Siddaramaiah AHINDA leader?'

Questioning the AHINDA convention organised in Mysuru on January 25, Gowda said, "On what label is Chief Minister Siddaramaiah conducting the AHINDA convention? If he is actually an AHINDA leader, why did it take him a year to choose a constituency to contest elections? If he were actually an AHINDA leader, he should have contested from any of the constituencies and proved his potential." Condemning the attacks on the churches, Gowda demanded action by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The attacks on the church are a very heinous act, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should take action," Gowda urged.

Bolas opens its 100th outlet at Brahmavar

The 100th store of Bolas at Brahmavar

A trusted brand in cashew processing and premium dry fruits, Bolas, launched its 100th outlet at Brahmavar. The store was inaugurated by Bola Shanti Prabhakar Kamath in the presence of K Sridhar Kamath, K Vedavathi Sridhar Kamath, Bola Damodar Kamath and Bola Rahul Kamath.

Bolas began its journey in 1958 with the establishment of a cashew nut processing unit. In 2012, the company expanded into almond and other dry fruits and nuts. "In 2020, to meet growing nutritional needs, the company entered the retail market under the brand name 'Bolas' and launched a chain of retail outlets", said Bola Rahul Kamath, Director.

Over the past seven decades, the company has earned a strong reputation in the international market for cashew and other dry fruits. Opening its 100th outlet in a short span is a significant milestone. "Managing processing and retail operations on our own, we have reduced intermediary distribution stages, enabling customers to access superior-quality products at reasonable prices", said Rajesh Kamath, Director.

The company operates India's largest dry fruits and seeds processing facility under one roof. It imports high-quality dry fruits from over 45 countries, processes them at its state-of-the-art facility and supplies them directly to consumers. In addition, Bolas exports its products to more than 32 countries. The retail chain has received several prestigious awards, including the Niryat Shree Award. Notably, the processing unit is located in a rural area, and a majority of the workforce comprises women.

Special offer today
To celebrate the launch of its 100th outlet, Bolas announced a special offer valid today. Buy one, get one free on its makhana and single-serve snacks range.

New products introduced

Encouraged by customers' trust and support, Bolas has introduced new products, including premium dry fruits and nuts, dry fruits-based sweets, healthy snacks and a special traditional gift range. Bolas expressed gratitude to the people of Karnataka who have been an integral part of this success. The company remains committed to delivering the finest products and a unique shopping experience in the years ahead.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Injured French tourist rescued in Hampi after two days

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS: A French tourist who slipped and fell down from a hillock near 'Ashtabhuja' pond in Hampi, has been rescued after two days.

On the evening of December 24, Bruno Roger (52) attempted to climb the hillock but fell off into an isolated spot.

He sustained grievous injuries on his leg and became immobile. After lying at the spot for two days, he crawled to a nearby banana plantation where local farmers noticed him and informed the police. The police and the officials of the Archaeological Survey of India admitted the tourist to Koppal hospital.

Police said that Roger had come alone from France and was staying at a homestay in Kaddirampura. He is said to be out of danger.

Assembly ATTENDANCE

During the recent winter session of the legislature in Belagavi, proceedings were held for 57 hours and 35 minutes across 10 working days. After the demise of senior Congress leaders H Y Meti and Shamanur Shivashankarappa, the total strength of the Assembly is 222 (maximum 224).

On an average, 44 MLAs were absent each day. In this charticle, DH's Sujay B M provides detailed break-ups of attendance of Congress, BJP, JD(S) and other MLAs during the session.

Congress

Average of daily attendance (in %)

72.3 (MLAs, excluding ministers and constitutional functionaries)

79.32 (including ministers, speaker, deputy speaker and chief whip)

Day 1: **65** | Day 2: **90** (highest) | Day 3: **87** | Day 4: **85** | Day 5: **74** | Day 6: **41** (least) | Day 7: **79** | Day 8: **83** | Day 9: **82** | Day 10: **57**

BJP

36 (ministers and Constitutional functionaries)
31 ministers, speaker, deputy speaker, leader of opposition, chief whips of government and opposition. These 36 members are taken as present on all days as per Assembly practice.

Total strength of the Assembly was 223 during the first week and became 222 in the second week, following the demise of Shamanur Shivashankarappa.

Average of daily attendance (in %)

81 (excluding LoP and chief whip)

82 (including LoP and chief whip)

Day 1: **53** | Day 2: **63** (highest) | Day 3: **60** | Day 4: **56** | Day 5: **48** | Day 6: **29** (least) | Day 7: **54** | Day 8: **53** | Day 9: **52** | Day 10: **47**

JD(S)

Average of daily attendance 69.7%

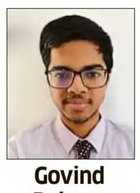
Day 1: 8 (least) | Day 2: 17 (highest) | Day 3: 13 | Day 4: 15 | Day 5: 13 | Day 6: 10 | Day 7: 16 | Day 8: 16 | Day 9: 16 | Day 10: 12

"I feel the proceedings should begin and end at the allotted time. Then, legislators will follow it. If you call them at 8 am and extend the sitting till 12 pm, problems will be created. The MLAs are also humans, who need refreshments and rest. If the Speaker fixes proper timings, it will increase attendance..
R ASHOKA, Leader of the Opposition

State CAT topper wants to pursue MBA at IIMB

BENGALURU, DHNS: Govind Balasubramanian emerged as the state topper in the recently declared Common Admission Test (CAT) by securing a perfect 100 percentile in his third attempt.

He hails from Kerala and is working as a data scientist in a private firm in the city.



Govind Balasubramanian

"My dream is to do an MBA at IIMB. I had scored 100 percentile in the CAT-2022 earlier. But I did not get a seat in IIMB in the viva. So, I attempted and scored 99.97 percentile last year. This year again, I tried my luck and scored 100 percentile. This time, I am confident of getting into IIMB or IIMA," Govind said.

He studied Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering from BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus and graduated in 2023.

"Since childhood, I have interest in Maths and logical questions. I scored high in Maths. I preferred logical reasoning over any other subject in this examination. My maths and logical reasoning are very strong. It helped me to get 100 percentile," he explained.

CLOSE TALK

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar share a word at a programme organised to pay tributes to veteran Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa, in Davangere on Friday. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER

Loyal party workers will get opportunities: Priyank

BENGALURU, DHNS: Reacting to Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's statement that he climbed the party ladder by sweeping floors and pasting posters in KPCC office, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said that Shivakumar is a senior leader and he spoke about the path he walked.

Priyank told reporters on Friday, "Congress has come to power today because of lakhs of people who worked for the party. Therefore, it is not right to ignore anyone."

"Whoever has worked (for the party), will get due reward. Some may get them sooner and some later, but surely they will be rewarded. The party treats everyone equally," he said. When asked about Shivakumar not getting time to meet party leader Rahul Gandhi, Priyank stated, "Rahul Gandhi was not in Delhi at all. Moreover, the deputy CM had not even sought time for a meeting. When we go to Delhi, it is not possible to meet Rahul Gandhi every time. We go for different works."

Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "I will speak about the CWC meeting matter in Delhi. The confusion in the party will be resolved. You (media) don't worry."

Mysuru cylinder blast: HM sees need to regulate small vendors

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara has sought a report on the helium cylinder blast incident reported from Mysuru.

He told reporters here on Friday, "In the incident, a man from Lucknow, who was selling the balloons, has died. There are no regulations for such small roadside vendors. In the interest of tourists, I will discuss the issue of such regulatory mechanisms with the Tourism Department."

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
PAPER DIVISION, MSIL House,
36 Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052
Phone : 080-22257649
No. PD-14/2025-26 Dated: 26.12.2025
Short-Term e-Tender Notification
Short term tenders are invited for **"Selection of supplier of Duplex Board"**. Last date and time for submitting tender **is 09.01.2026 before 3.30 PM**. For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- General Manager (Paper Division)

KODAGU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, MADIKERI
(Government of Karnataka- Autonomous Institution)
Ph: 08272-298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in
No.DME/2025-26/IND1955 Date: 26-12-2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Under signed invites e-tender notification in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in GOK, for the **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ROBOTIC UNIT ON TURNKEY BASIS TO, DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPEDICS KoIMS** teaching Hospital Madikeri, Last date for upload is 28-01-2026 for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undesigned.
Sd/- Director and Dean KoIMS Madikeri

RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief Engineer, RDW&S Dept.,
1st Floor, E-Block,KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan,
Bangalore-560009. Tel: 080-22053700 Email: cerws14@gmail.com
No. RWSSD/2025-26/IND0484 Date : 24-12-2025
SHORT TERM TENDER INVITATION
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka invites short term tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible bidders in two cover system (Technical and Financial bid) for **"Printing, Supply & Distribution of Calendar, Diary, Poster and Booklet to Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department.** EMD: **Rs. 75,000/-.**
The last date for submission of bids through KPP portal is **05-01-2026.**
Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority
RDW&SD, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/4681/2025-26

INSTITUTE OF NEPHRO-UROLOGY
(Government of Karnataka-Autonomous Institute -Regd. No. 1052/03-04)
(A Post Graduate Institue of Higher Medical Sciences, Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru. Recognised by Medical Council of India)
Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02. Ph: 080-26700460, Fax: 26706777
E-Mail: nephrourology.institute@gmail.com Website: www.nephrourology.in
No: INU/TND/MYDDS/11/2025-26 Date: 26.12.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Institute of Nephro-Urology, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02 invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the Electronic Tenders for the the following subjects.
1. Procurement of Medical Journals for the year 2026.
2. Procurement of Drugs, Disposables, Sutures and Misc., Items for Institute of Nephro-Urolgy Unit, Mysore.
Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is **26.01.2026 at 5.30 P.M**
For any further details please logon to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Note: For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **https://nephrourology.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Director, Institute of Nephro-Urology, Bengaluru.

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
Office of the Superintendent Engineer-02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE),
N.R.Square, Bengaluru - 560002
No: B-SMILE/SE-2/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 26-12-2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Government of Karnataka has Constituted "Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited" (B-SMILE) for implementation of Specific, Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE). The Superintendent Engineer-02, invites tenders from eligible Consultants registered in Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) or the Equivalent registration with the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Project management consultancy services for the work of Comprehensive Development of Footpath & White Topping for 11 Major Roads in Padmanabhanagara, BTM Layout & Jayangara Assembly Constituency Limits under Package-6 **Project Cost: ₹.12000.00 Lakshs. PMC Amount put to Tender Including all applicable taxes and duties: ₹.167.47 Lakhs, EMD Amount: 2,52,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Date and time for Availability of Tender Documents in KPP Portal: **30-12-2025** at **4:00** pm onwards (2) Last date for submission of pre-bid queries: **03-01-2026** upto **3:00** pm (3) Date and time of Pre-bid meeting under the Chairmanship of Chief Engineer-01, B-SMILE**: 03-01-2026** at **4.00** pm at Room No:108, 4th Floor, Annex-3 Building, GBA, N R Square, Bengaluru-02 (4) Last Date and time for Receipt of Tender Documents in KPP Portal on **14-01-2026** up to **4:00** pm. (5) Date and time for Opening of Technical Bids is **15-01-2026** at **4:30** pm. (6) Date and time for Opening of Financial Bids will be intimated to Technically qualified Bidders.
Sd/- Superintendent Engineer-02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)

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VACANCIES
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Sl.No.	Post	Catagory	Subject	Vacancy
01	PGT	Empanel	Accountancy, Economics, Business Studies, Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology Physical Education Mathematics, English	10 (01 each)
02	TGT	Regular	Social Science, Hindi, Science	03 (1 each)
		Contractual	Mathematics	01
		Empanel	English, Sanskrit, Computer Science	03 (1 each)
03	PRT	Regular	Academic (All Subjects)	03
		Contractual	Academic (All Subjects)	05
		Empanel	Academics (All Subjects)	04
04	Pre-Nursery/ NTT	Empanel	Academics (All Subjects)	02
05	Clerk	Empanel	Administration	01
		Contractual	Administration	02
06	Lab Attendant	Empanel	Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer	04 (1 each)
07	Helper Male / Female	Regular-01 Contractual- 05 Empanel-06	Ayah / Peon / Sweeper/Gardener	06
08	Special Educator/ Stem Lab Technician	Part Time/ Full Time (Contractual)	Special Educator/ Stem Lab Technician	02 (01 each)
09	Dance, Music,Yoga	Part Time/ Basis (Contractual)	Dance, Music,Yoga	03 (01 each)
10	Football/ Basketball/ Band Master/ Taekwondo	Part Time/ Basis (Contractual)	Football/Basketball/ Band Master/ Taekwondo	04 (01 each)

Note: 1. For details of eligibility criteria, please visit school website.
2. Application along with the Photocopies of supportive Documents to reach Executive Director AF School Jalahalli before **11-01-2026**
3. For any queries Contact Tel No.080-23455069/63.
4. Please submit separate Applications for each post.
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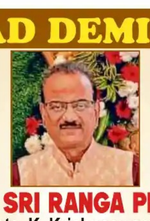

DR. K. SRI RANGA PRASAD
(S/o Late. K. Krishnaswamy and Sudha Krishnaswamy)
HOD of ENT at PES Medical College
08/06/1963 - 26/12/2025
Cremation at Wilson Garden Crematorium at 3 PM dated 27-12-2025
RSVP: 9513377196

rga accident: Large gnment of oil boxes nd in ill-fated bus

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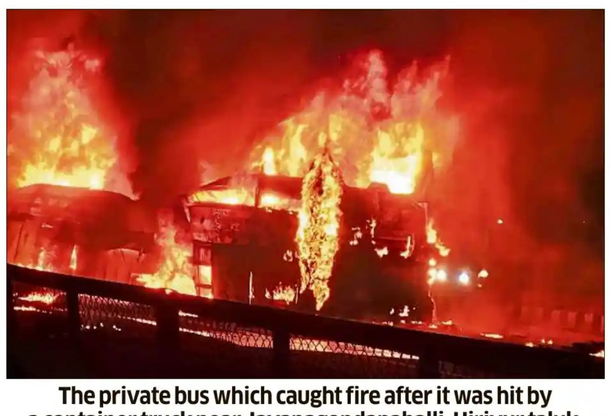

The private bus which caught fire after it was hit by a container truck near Javanagondanahalli, Hiriyur taluk, Chitradurga district, on Thursday.

The probe is underway to ensure whether the Seabird travels had permission to transport such highly combustible material.

Six passengers were burnt alive after the bus caught fire when a container truck, jumping the divider, crashed into the bus in Hiriyur taluk in the small hours of Thursday.

Driver dies

Meanwhile, the death toll in the Chitradurga bus inferno rose to seven after the driver of the private bus, Mohammad Rafiq Hulagur, succumbed to his injuries at the Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute (KMCRI) in Hubballi on Friday.

Mohammad Rafiq, a native of Haveri district, was rushed to KMCRI on Thursday following the accident.

Bus cleaner Mohammad Sadhiq, who sustained minor injuries, is being treated for minor injuries at the hospital.

"Mohammad Rafiq did not respond to the treatment and passed away due to multiple organ failure. He had serious injuries in stomach, leg and other parts, and he was being treated at the ICU," said KMCRI Medical Superintendent Dr Eshwar Hasabi.

DNA testing

The DNA samples from the five charred bodies were collected and sent to the regional forensic science laboratory here on Gokul Road in Hubballi for rapid profiling and matching them with family blood samples to confirm identities.

r case: HC grants m anticipatory Byrathi Basavaraj

"Since the petitioner was granted protection by the coordinate bench in July and it remained till December 19, it is just and proper to grant ad-interim anticipatory bail till the disposal of the main petition," Justice Basavaraja stated.

In July, while hearing the MLA's petition for quashing the FIR, a coordinate bench of the high court had given an interim order directing the investigating officer not to take coercive steps against him, his counsel stated.

The interim protection from arrest continued until December 19, when the high court quashed the order invoking KCOCA against the MLA. The court had asked him to approach the special court for anticipatory bail, the counsel added.

The legislator moved the high court after the special court rejected anticipatory bail application on December 23. The next day, the CID filed a charge sheet in the case against all but two suspects, including Byrathi Basavaraja (accused number 5).

In the charge sheet, no role has been attributed to the petitioner, while the investigating agency sought time to complete the probe against him, the counsel said.

The counsel further stated that after the July interim protection, the MLA had appeared before the investigating officer and his statement was recorded.

The court observed that though the petitioner had appeared before the investigation officer after a notice was issued to him under the BNSS, no charge sheet had been filed even after more than five months. It also noted that no proper reasons had been assigned for the delay as required under Section 193 of the BNSS.

"The petitioner shall be released on bail in the event of his arrest on the production of a Rs 5 lakh self-bond with two sureties for a like sum, to the satisfaction of the investigation officer. He shall assist the investigation and shall not tamper with witnesses in any manner," Justice Basavaraja said and posted the main petition to January 6, 2026, for consideration of objections to be filed by the CID.

Forest minister tells officials to curb land grab, encroachments

BENGALURU, DHNS: Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Friday asked officials to secure the forests at the earliest as encroachments and land grabbing were further shrinking wildlife habitat,

The minister held a meeting with forest officials in the Tumakuru division office and enquired about the conflict situations as well as the infrastructure required to take up mitigation measures. After hearing that leopard conflicts have been reported in about 50 villages, the minister approved a proposal to buy 31 new cages to rescue the problem animals.

Khandre, however, stressed the need to save the wildlife habitat. He expressed concern that, though Tumakuru district has relatively less green cover, encroachment and land grabbing still pose a threat.

"Some are using forged documents to grab forest land and there are also cases of illegal grant. Forest officials should take action in such cases without yielding to any pressure. The forest officials should take action in such cases without yielding to any pressure," he said.

Insurance for forest personnel

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said frontline forest personnel who are government officials will have Rs 1 crore insurance, and the outsourced employees will have an insurance cover of Rs 20 lakh in case of unforeseen accidents while on duty.

ke submarine sea sortie from Karwar

Kannada has issued an order prohibiting fishing activity for a length of 18 km from Karwar to Majali.

According to a release by Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President will take a sea sortie in a submarine from Karwar port on December 28.

Murmu will be the second head of state to sail in a submarine after A P J Abdul Kalam, who undertook a submarine sortie in February, 2006, at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

t sparks fly as drunk SUV driver drags bike for 500m on flyover

The impact threw Rohit off his motorcycle, causing injuries to his chest, legs and hands. However, instead of stopping, Srinivas allegedly sped away with the motorcycle still lodged firmly under the front bumper of the SUV.

Eyewitnesses described a harrowing scene on social media as the SUV sped towards Nayandahalli, dragging the heavy motorcycle for 500 metres. Mobile phone footage captured by fellow motorists showed a trail of sparks illuminating the dark flyover as the metal scraped against the road. Despite loud shouts and honking from other commuters, the driver refused to pull over.

Police said that the chase ended near Nayandahalli Junction, where angry commuters managed to intercept the vehicle and block its path. The crowd reportedly pulled Srinivas out of the car and assaulted him before smashing the SUV's windshield.

SRINIVAS K V
Driver of the Hyundai car

"I panicked after the initial collision. I thought the people shouting were just warning me about the accident, so I tried to flee.

A team from the Kamakshipalya police arrived at the spot and took Srinivas into custody. A subsequent breathalyser test confirmed that his blood alcohol levels were well above the legal limit.

During interrogation, Srinivas reportedly confessed to consuming alcohol, citing "personal problems." He claimed he was unaware that the motorcycle was stuck to his car. "I panicked after the initial collision. I thought the people shouting were just warning me about the accident, so I tried to flee," he told the police.

"The accused drove in a rash and negligent manner, endangering multiple lives. He also reportedly hit another car and a motorbike while attempting to escape the trailing crowd," a senior police officer said.

The Kamakshipalya police have registered an FIR under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Motor Vehicles Act for drunk driving, rash endangerment and causing hurt.

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India flags B'desh minority situation

Bangladesh, from Page 1

His killing has also triggered some fresh strain in India-Bangladesh ties as certain elements in that country sought to link New Delhi to his death. India dismissed the charges.

"We have rejected the false narrative that has been projected in Bangladesh. The law and order situation and developments happening there is the responsibility of the government of Bangladesh. To portray a narrative where things go in another direction is completely false and we reject that," Jaiswal said. The external affairs ministry spokesperson said India is closely following all the developments in the neighbouring country.

"India stands for strengthening our ties with the people of Bangladesh. We favour peace and stability in Bangladesh. And we stand for free, fair, inclusive and participatory elections in Bangladesh," he said.

The parliamentary elections are slated for February 12. On the killing of another Hindu man, Amrit Mondal alias Samrat, by a mob in Rajbari Town on Wednesday night, Jaiswal appeared to link it to deteriorating security situation and hostilities towards minorities in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh government said Mondal was accused in several serious cases, including murder and extortion and that the incident was not a communal attack. On BNP leader Rahman's return to Bangladesh from London, Jaiswal said: "As you are aware, India supports free, fair and inclusive elections in Bangladesh. This development should be seen in that context."

'Heli Ride' launched as part of Karavali Utsava

MANGALURU, DHNS: A helicopter joyride service titled "Heli Ride" has been launched as part of Karavali Utsava 2025, in Dakshina Kannada district.

The fare is fixed at Rs 3,500 per person, with a maximum of five passengers per ride. Each ride lasts approximately seven minutes. The rides will be available from 10.30 am to 1 pm and from 2.30 pm to 5 pm.

The helicopter ride will offer visitors a refreshing break from daily routine and a rare opportunity to enjoy breathtaking aerial views of the coastal landscape.

People can experience panoramic views of Mangaluru's coastline, scenic spots, and the vast coastal terrain. Soaring above the city provides a unique and memorable perspective of its beauty.

The helicopter ride is one of the major attractions of Karavali Utsava. Interested can book their ride through the website: https://heli.dakshinakannada.org/ according to an official release.

IndiGo crisis: Panel submits probe report to DGCA

The airlines had cancelled over 1,600 flights in a single day

NEW DELHI, PTI

The four-member panel that probed the massive flight disruptions at IndiGo earlier this week has submitted its report to the aviation regulator DGCA, according to a senior official.

The inquiry committee, headed by DGCA Joint Director General Sanjay K Bramhane, was constituted on December 5 to conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of the circumstances that led to the massive flight disruptions.

The official said the committee has submitted its report on Friday evening.

A source said copies of the report have been shared with the office of Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu and Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha.

Details about the report could not be immediately ascertained.

Other members in the Brahmane-led panel were DGCA's Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, Senior Flight Operations Inspector Captain Kapil Manglik and Flight Operations Inspector Captain Rampal.

Earlier this month, IndiGo cancelled more than 1,600 flights in a single day, and inadequate planning in implementing the revised pilot rest norms was a key reason for the disruptions.

Following the disruptions, DGCA directed IndiGo, the country's largest airline, to reduce its winter schedule by 10 per cent and issued show-cause notices to the airline's CEO, Pieter Elbers, and COO, Isidre Porqueras.

A file photo showing passengers stranded at Kempegowda International Airport owing to flight disruptions in Bengaluru.

In the order dated December 5 on setting up the panel, it said that, prima facie, the situation indicates deficiencies in internal oversight, operational preparedness, and compliance planning, "warranting an independent examination".

As per that DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) order, the regulator had issued repeated directions and advance instructions from time to time to the airline on timely preparation to implement the provisions related to the FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations) norms.

The regulator had also observed the airline's inability to accurately forecast crew availability, conduct timely training, and realign rosters despite advance regulatory intimation, resulting in cascading delays and cancellations across its network beginning late November 2025 and leading to non-adherence to the directions.

Subsequently, the watchdog held a review meeting with IndiGo, wherein the airline acknowledged that it had failed to anticipate the actual crew requirement under the revised norms and that significant planning and assessment gaps existed in implementing Phase-II of FDTL CAR 2024, as per the order.

The Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) pertaining to FDTL were implemented in two phases -- the first phase came into force from July 1, and the second from November 1.

"This shortfall directly contributed to large-scale disruptions, with cancellations reaching 170-200 flights daily, severely affecting network integrity and passenger convenience. Where it was noticed in the month of November, the flight cancellations of IndiGo were maximum vis-a-vis other airlines," the order had said.

Adopt c anti-terror sq Shah tel

Amit Shah, from Page 1

He said the results of the investigation into the Pahalgam terrorist attack will put Pakistan in the dock on international platforms.

Referring to the NIA developing a common ATS (anti-terrorism squad) structure that has been shared with state police forces, he said it provides an opportunity for uniform preparation at every level when it is implemented across the country.

"A common ATS structure for the police across the country is extremely important, and all Director Generals of Police from the states should implement it as soon as possible," he said while emphasising that states should use NIDAAN and NATGRID investigations to ensure that cases are "not investigated in isolation" so as to bring to light invisible links in the cases.

Insisting that everyone should move forward with the principle of "Duty to Share"

Govt, BJP trade barbs over Foxconn unit in Bengaluru

Rahul credits state govt ; Vaishnaw says it's due to Make in India initiative

BENGALURU, DHNS

A credit war has started between the state and the central government regarding Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry (Foxconn) starting a new unit in Bengaluru.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi attributed the launch to the efforts of the state government. However, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw countered, saying it was the success of the "Make in India" initiative.

This tussle continued, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Industries Minister M B Patil and IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge reacting and commenting against the central government.

Siddaramaiah hit back at the central minister, saying, "If Make in India is truly successful, how did Karnataka achieve what BJP's double-engine states could not? When you have no achievements to show, you steal others' success and take credit for it."

Patil said, "Ecosystem, talent, and facilities are most important for industries. Karnataka has built this ecosystem for decades. Why should Micron or Tata's semiconductor giants not find it suitable here, when Karnataka has created India's most mature ecosystem?" He further said that many global entrepreneurs showed interest in setting up units in the state. But due to the Government of India's incentive decisions, they were diverted elsewhere.

"With competitive incentives, the state is fully prepared. Karnataka deserves it on merit. Let us set politics aside and work together for future generations."

Priyank Kharge stated, "Let Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw first learn how Apple's story began in India."

Double-engine govt finalised pact: BJP

The BJP leaders released a video of discussions with Foxconn held during the BJP government's tenure. Former CM Basavaraj Bommai was seen meeting Foxconn's chief in the video. They claimed, "Even before you, the double-engine government had finalised this agreement. Congress has never been worthy in matters of credibility."

Somanna reviews Ramanagaram station upgrade

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Friday inspected the Ramanagaram railway station, which is being redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS).

He stated that the Bengaluru–Ramanagaram region is witnessing rapid growth and that railway infrastructure is being upgraded accordingly.

The Rs 20.96-crore station modernisation includes improvement of the circulating area, construction of a new foot overbridge, provision of new platform shelters and waiting halls, additional parking facilities, installation of three lifts and one escalator, and construction of a new toilet block.

TRAVEL TRAVAILS

Passengers rush to board a train at Patna Junction amid delays and cancellationscaused by dense fog, in Patna on Friday. PTI PHOTO

Activists condemn Hubballi 'honour killing,' hold candlelight vigil

BENGALURU, DHNS

A coalition of more than 20 organisations held a protest against the recent 'honour killing' of Manya Patil, a 20-year-old pregnant Hubballi woman by her father and her relatives over her marriage with Vivekananda, a Dalit.

The protesters held a candle march to condemn the murder and urged the state government to bring in a strict law against 'honour killing's, take stringent action against the suspects, provide fair compensation to Vivekananda's family and a government job to him.

Vinay K Sreenivasa, advocate and citizen activist, said: "This protest is to draw the attention of both government and society towards this barbaric act. Karnataka is a home to a lot of seers and mutts, who are actively involved in voicing out their opinions on reservation and other things but now they have chosen to remain silent."

Protesters held posters and raised slogans to raise awareness against the cases.

Maitreyi K, a lawyer and an activist, said: "A law specifically dealing with freedom of choice in marriages to prevent killings in the name of caste is needed. It has to be done immediately as a preventive measure to stop such killings. An anti-caste programme has to be developed and the government should commit itself to the annihilation of caste."

A coalition of organisations hold candlelight vigil to condemn the recent Hubballi 'honour killing', at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Devi Mandya, state general secretary, All India Democratic Women's Association, said: "The caste and religious system in the country has become an obstacle for people to choose their life partners. People are being fed with such information about upper caste and lower caste and looking down on others. Ministers, especially women ministers never address these issues and condemn such acts."

She also insisted on a formation of a special commission of women to hear cases of such 'honour killing's in which women are targeted, to deliver justice faster. "If such commissions are formed, justice will be delivered faster and people will fear the law and refrain from committing barbaric acts," added Devi Mandya.

Mysuru cylinder more suc burns, tol

Mysuru, from Page 1

The police are reportedly questioning two other people who were with Saleem. Meanwhile, a team of the National Investigation Agency is reportedly expected to visit Mysuru. Though the NIA team's visit to the city is yet to be confirmed, it is said to be gathering information about the incident.

The Mysuru city police, meanwhile, clarified that Saleem did not use helium gas to fill the balloons. He, instead, used a mixture of sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) and water which he prepared himself, Mysuru district-in-charge minister H C Mahadevappa said.

Terming the incident "unexpected and unfortunate" Mahadevappa said, "Saleem was a smalltime businessman engaged in seasonal business. He did not use helium, which is more explosive and could have caused extensive damage. Those staying with him in the city lodge are his family members."

Regarding the NIA gathering information on the incident, he said, "NIA normally

AI skills no freshers l

IT services, from Page 1

As automation, AI, and software-driven models spread across sectors, it has become extremely critical to build a future-ready workforce and specialised skills in AI, cloud, cybersecurity, etc., are increasingly important, Biz Staffing Comrade managing partner Puneet Arora said.

"Some organisations are willing to offer higher compensation to secure niche talent, especially where there is an immediate business need or skill scarcity," he added.

Quess Corp CEO – IT staffing Kapil Joshi said freshers who command various niche skills such as AI, cloud and semiconductor are always in demand, and since there is a demand-supply gap, premiumisation is offered.

He added that this has been seen across sectors, and the demand has been there for six months to a year now.

However, this package does not apply to everyone. "Realistically, only a small proportion of freshers secure double-digit packages—typically those with specialised skills and hands-on project experience. We believe that as the demand shifts towards specialised skills, compensation for a section of freshers is likely to move up gradually, though the broad base will remain within traditional bands in the near term," Arora said.

Can Thackerays overcome the BJP election machine?

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The recent reunion of Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray after two decades has generated significant fanfare and political buzz in Maharashtra, but they will have to find ways to counter the BJP's formidable election machine to have any chance of maintaining control over the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the richest civic body of India.

Since April this year, when Uddhav, the chief of Shiv Sena (UBT) and Raj, the founder-president of MNS, spoke about burying the hatchet, the brothers have spoken about Marathi-manoos (people), Marathi-asmita (pride) and Marathi-bhasha (language).

When Uddhav and Raj announced their tie-up for the BMC elections, there were two major takeaways. Uddhav invoked the legacy of his grandfather and father. "Our grandfather Prabodhankar Thackeray was a legendary social reformer and writer and a pillar of the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement. My father, Balasaheb Thackeray and my uncle Shrikant Thackeray played a key role in ensuring that Mumbai remained part of Maharashtra," he said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray with MNS chief Raj Thackeray. PTI FILE PHOTO

Raj, on the other hand, made it clear, "The Mayor of Mumbai will be a Marathi and from us."

In Mumbai, the BJP has an electoral alliance with Shiv Sena; however, so far, any arrangement with Ajit Pawar-led NCP has been ruled out.

On the other hand, the Shiv Sena (UBT)-MNS will contest in alliance and is out of the ambit of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, as the Congress had reservations over Raj's inclusion into the opposition alliance. Both the Thackerays and Congress are keen on an alliance with NCP (SP).

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who calls the shots for the BJP and Maha Yuti, has set the tone when he lashed out at the Thackeray cousins.

"Their track record is one of corruption and self-interest. Their alliance is for their own political survival, and it will not make any difference. Maha Yuti's fight is not for the Mayor's post, but for the welfare and development of Mumbaikars, he said, adding the BJP-led alliance would expose how the BMC was looted during the Covid-19 pandemic.

CBI contests HC bail to Unnao rape convict

Says agency filed plea in SC after studying the order

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Indian Youth Congress members participate in a candle march seeking justice for the Unnao rape survivor, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

The CBI on Friday filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court order in the Unnao rape case in which former BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar's sentence was suspended and bail was granted to him.

The order in the 2019 case has attracted criticism, with the survivor protesting at the India Gate and her mother and other activists in front of the HC.

A CBI spokesperson said the agency had filed the SLP in the Supreme Court after studying the HC order. Atrial court had sentenced Sengar to life imprisonment with a fine of Rs 25 lakh.

The HC order came against the backdrop of an appeal Sengar filed seeking the overturning of his conviction as well as a petition seeking the suspension of sentence.

The spokesperson said the CBI as well as the survivor had vehemently opposed the petitions.

The HC on Tuesday suspended the sentence of Sengar, who was serving a life term, and ordered his release on bail pending the disposal of his appeal against his conviction by a trial court.

However, Sengar will have to remain in jail as he is also serving a 10-year sentence in connection with the survivor's father's custodial death, and has not got bail in that case.

The survivor's removal from India Gate, where she was protesting on Tuesday, had attracted criticism.

She subsequently met LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, asking that they help her family relocate to a Congress-ruled state and find a senior lawyer who could argue her case in the apex court.

On Friday, her mother and All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) activists staged a protest outside the HC, holding placards and raising slogans like "stop protecting rapists" and "stop protecting convicts".

The survivor's mother said she had come for the protest as her daughter had endured immense suffering. She said she was not blaming the entire HC, but only the two judges whose decision had shattered their trust.

"This is an injustice towards our family. We will approach the SC, as I have faith in it," she was quoted by PTI as saying.

SURVIVOR

"It is my right and the right of the public to ask these questions. Not every judge is like this. This order has caged me and many women like me. It poses a threat to my family. My husband has also lost his job. What are we supposed to do? They thought we would remain silent and fearful. They have not seen a woman in her Durga avatar. We will not be scared.

20 young heroes honoured with Bal Purashkar

Among the awardees is Dhinidhi Desinghu, a 15-year-old gifted swimmer from Karnataka

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Dhinidhi Desinghu, a gifted swimmer from Karnataka, Shravan Singh, a child who made supply runs to the border during Operation Sindoor, and cricketing sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi are among the 20 recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the award to the children for their exceptional achievements in the fields of bravery, social service, environment, sports, arts, culture, science and technology at a ceremony in New Delhi on Friday.

The Bengaluru-based 15-year-old Dhinidhi had qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics in women's 200m freestyle, becoming the country's youngest athlete at the event.

President Murmu said the awards coincide with Veer Bal Diwas, the day which is marked to honour the sacrifice of the two sons of the tenth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Gobind Singh, Sahibzade Zorawar Singh and Sahibzade Fateh Singh.

Karnataka swimmer and Olympian Dhinidhi Desinghu receives the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar from President Droupai Murmu on Veer Bal Diwas in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also present on the occasion and interacted with the children. President Murmu said the greatness of a country is certain when its children are filled with patriotism and high ideals.

"I am happy to note that the children have showcased their exceptional talent in various fields such as bravery, art and culture, environment, innovation, science and technology, social service, and sports. It is because of talented children such as the seven-year-old Vaka Lakshmi Pragnika that India is considered a chess powerhouse. Ajay Raj and Mohammed Sidan P, who saved the lives of others with their bravery and intelligence, deserve all the praise they receive," she said.

Among the awardees are nine-year-old Vyom Priya from Coimbatore for trying to save a six-year-old from an electrical accident and Kamlesh Kumar from Kaimur, who rescued a child from drowning. Both were awarded posthumously.

Vansh Tayal (17) from Chandigarh, who rehabilitates children with special needs, was also awarded, and Arnav Anupriya Maharishi (17) from Aurangabad received the award for being a young divyang innovator. He developed an AI-based rehabilitation tool for hand paralysis.

India flags prolonged H-1B visa delays with US

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Friday said it flagged its concerns to the US over cancellation of pre-scheduled H1B visa interviews of a large number of Indians and that both sides are engaged on the issue to address the disruptions caused by Washington ordering enhanced vetting of applicants.

The interviews of thousands of H-1B visa applicants slated from the middle of this month in India have been abruptly postponed by several months to scrutinise their social media posts and online profiles.

Some of the applicants, whose visa appointments were scheduled last week, received e-mails from US immigration authorities informing that their interviews are being pushed back as late as May next year.

"The government of India has received several representations from Indian nationals who are facing delays or problems with rescheduling of their visa appointments," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

UNCERTAINTY

- MEA says India remains actively engaged with the US to "address and minimise the disruptions caused to our nationals".
- Rescheduling of the interviews is for all applicants who were previously given appointments from December 15
- H-4 visa applicants impacted as well

"While we do understand that visa-related issues pertain to the sovereign domain of any country, we have flagged these issues and concerns of our nationals to the US side, both in New Delhi and in Washington DC. We hope that these delays and the disruptions will be addressed."

Jaiswal said India remains actively engaged with the US to "address and minimise the disruptions caused to our nationals".

The Trump administration's policy impacted H-4 visa applicants as well. The H-4 visa holders are primarily spouses of H1B visa workers.

"There are several people who have been stranded for extended periods of time because of scheduling and rescheduling of consular appointments," Jaiswal added.

He said the disruptions in the visa appointment schedule have caused "a lot of hardships" to the applicants, their families as well as the education of their children.

The mass cancellation of scheduled interviews of the H-1B visa applicants in view of the enhanced vetting measures has resulted in significant delays in their return to the US.

The rescheduling of the interviews is for all applicants who were previously given appointments from December 15 onwards.

Committed to bringing back fugitives: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Friday said it remains committed to bringing back economic fugitives from abroad, including Lalit Modi and Vijay Mallya, to face the law in the country.

The assertion by the MEA came days after Lalit Modi, in a video posted on social media, joked about his and Mallya's status as the "two biggest fugitives" of India.

"We are the two fugitives, the biggest fugitives of India," he was heard saying.

The video, shot at a party marking Mallya's 70th birthday in London, was later removed. In the caption, Modi appeared to be sarcastic, writing: "Let's break the internet in India again."

Asked about the now-deleted video, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government is fully committed to bringing back people wanted by law in India. "On this particular issue, we are in talks with several governments.

"Processes are underway. In several of these cases, there are multiple layers of legal complexities involved. But we remain committed to bringing them back to the country so that they can face trial before courts here," he said.

Congress targets PMO over 'suspicious' appointments, seek Modi's clarification

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress on Friday targeted the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), claiming that it was under the control of "suspicious" people, and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come clean on whether he intended to appoint former Prasar Bharati chairman Navneet Sehgal, who was facing corruption allegations, in it.

Congress Media and Publicity Department chairperson Pawan Khera told reporters that Sehgal, who recently quit as the Prasar Bharati chairman, was the alleged kingpin of a Rs 112-crore kickback scam in Uttar Pradesh, citing a media report about a dossier prepared by the Income Tax (I-T) Department.

Pawan Khera

He said that speculation was rife that Sehgal's resignation was linked to his "past association" with another official, Hiren Joshi, who was handling the PMO's media affairs and also facing allegations. Sehgal and Joshi could not be contacted for their comments.

Earlier, senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra raised questions about the functioning of the PMO, alleging that a person in it was involved in a multi-crore betting-app scam.

Khera said reports were now coming that Sehgal would replace Joshi in the PMO, and that the PMK seemed to be indulging in "political musical chairs" by swapping one alleged corrupt official for another.

Kickback network

Citing the media report, Khera claimed Sehgal, who was an additional secretary in UP, was allegedly identified as the largest beneficiary of a kickback network that siphoned off around Rs 112 crore from schemes like the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (IED) and the UP Industrial Consultants Ltd.

He told reporters that the I-T Department had sent a report that detailed the scam — which apparently took place between 2019-20 and 2021-22 — to the state government and the Lokayukta, but it did not reach the state's anti-corruption ombudsman.

"The same I-T officer prepared a report on Mukthar Ansari, and it was acted upon. However, the one on Sehgal did not reach the Lokayukta. The file was bulldozed... A person named (in it)... is now speculated to be appointed in the PMO. It is a matter of national security," he said.

"The PMO is full of suspicious people. It is under the control of these people. We will come out with the truth even if there are threats and legal notices," he said.

Khera said Modi must come clean on Joshi's current status and whether he was being replaced by Sehgal. "Has he (Joshi) been formally removed, suspended, or placed under investigation? Is PM Modi personally shielding him from scrutiny?" he asked.

Statistical Institute being taken over by RSS: Rahul

NEW DELHI, PTI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday alleged that the BJP-RSS combine is conspiring to weaken education and institutions, stressing that education needs freedom while institutions will be run by knowledge and science, not by ideology.

Rahul Gandhi

In a post on Facebook, Gandhi said he met with students of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) at Jan Sansad recently, who reiterated the same serious concerns that students and teachers from other educational institutions across the country have been consistently raising.

The students explained that the ISI is gradually being taken over institutionally by the RSS, Gandhi alleged.

"The Academic Councils, which should be run by academicians, are now facing bureaucratic and ideological interference. The syllabus and research are also being controlled by the RSS ideology."

"This attack is not just on institutions but on the country's intellectual freedom, scientific temperament and the future of its youth. We will not let this happen. Education needs freedom — institutions will be run by knowledge and science, not by ideology," the Congress leader said, adding that there was a conspiracy to weaken education and privatise institutions.

Exploitation on marriage pretext must be curbed: Allahabad HC

PRAYAGRAJ, PTI: The Allahabad High Court has observed in an order that the trend of sexually exploiting women by making false promises of marriage and later refusing to marry them is increasing in society and it must be curbed at the outset.

While making this observation, the Allahabad High Court rejected the anticipatory bail petition of a person accused under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including section 69 (sexual intercourse by deceit, etc.).

Rejecting the anticipatory bail application of one Prashant Pal, Justice Nalin Kumar Srivastava observed, "In the present case, the facts reveal that the accused applicant had a fraudulent intention towards the victim from the very beginning. He had no intention of marrying the victim from the outset."

The court expressed grave concern over the nature of the crime, terming it "serious against society".

Rejecting the defence of a consensual relationship, the court observed, "He repeatedly had physical relations with the victim on the false promise of marriage. Exploiting the victim under the pretext of marriage and ultimately refusing to marry are tendencies that are increasing in society and must be curbed at the outset."

In a first for BJP in Kerala, Rajesh takes oath as Thiruvananthapuram mayor

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: V V Rajesh of the BJP has been elected as mayor of Thiruvananthapuram City Corporation, becoming the first mayor in Kerala from the saffron party.

Rajesh secured 51 votes, including one from an independent councillor, in the voting held on Friday.

In the 101-member council, BJP-NDA won 50 seats, CPM-led LDF got 29, and Congress-led UDF got 19, while independents won two seats. Election to one ward was postponed owing to the death of a candidate.

Apart from the 50 votes of the BJP-NDA, Rajesh got the support of independent candidate Pattoor Radhakrishnan, who was a former president and secretary of the Thiruvananthapuram Press Club. The other independent candidate, Sudheesh Kumar, who won as a UDF rebel candidate, kept out of the polling.

While LDF candidate R P Sivaji secured 29 votes, UDF candidate K S Sabarinadhan secured only 17 out of the 19 UDF votes, as the votes of two UDF councillors became invalid due to technical reasons.

Rajesh, who was sworn-in as mayor by district collector Anu Kumari, said in his opening remarks that he would work to make the city corporation one of the best in the country.

Young BJP leader G S Asha Nath was elected as deputy mayor.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit the city in January and announce major development plans.

BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who was present at the council hall during the event, told the media that there were no differences in the party on the mayor selection.

Rajesh's political experience could have been a key factor in being chosen for the post, as the BJP is one short of a majority in the council, and many senior politicians are among the opposition councillors.

Mirwaiz drops Hurriyat chairman title 'under pressure'

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A day after removing the reference to "chairman, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC)" from his X handle, Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday alleged he was compelled to make the change after being repeatedly pressed by the authorities, who warned that his account could be taken down otherwise.

In a post on X, the Mirwaiz said the authorities had asked him "for some time now" to modify his profile as Hurriyat chairman, arguing that all constituents of the Hurriyat Conference, including the Awami Action Committee (AAC) that he heads, have been banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), effectively rendering the Hurriyat a banned organisation.

"Failing which they will take down my handle," the Mirwaiz wrote, explaining the circumstances that led to the removal of the Hurriyat designation from his profile.

Describing the decision as a 'forced' one, the Mirwaiz said the shrinking of public space and communication avenues in Kashmir had left him with little choice.

"At a time when public space and avenues of communication stand severely restricted, this platform remains among the very few means available to me to reach out to my people and share my views on our issues with them, and the outside world," he said.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

Calling it a "Hobson's choice", the Mirwaiz suggested that retaining access to the platform was crucial for him to continue engaging with the public, even if it meant conceding to the authorities' demand on how he describes his political position online.

"Hobson's choice" means an apparently free choice when there is no real alternative.

The clarification came amid speculation on social media and in political circles after users noticed that Mirwaiz's X bio no longer mentioned his role as the Hurriyat chairman.

The Hurriyat Conference, an amalgam of separatist groups, has been under sustained pressure from the government in recent years, with several of its constituents being banned and their leaders facing legal action.

There was no immediate response from the authorities to the Mirwaiz's claim that he was warned of his account being taken down if the changes were not made.

Rashtriya Hindu Raksha Parishad activists burn the effigy of Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus during a protest against violence on the Hindu community in Bangladesh, in Lucknow, on Friday. PTI

A FAMILY AFFAIR

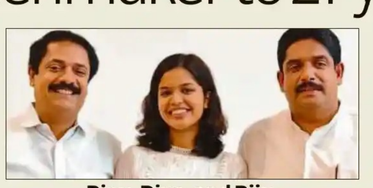
Kin play queenmaker to 21-year-old in Kerala local body

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

With three members of a family winning elections as independent candidates in the hung Pala municipality in Kerala, the family is calling the shots.

As a result, 21-year-old Diya Binu Pulikkakandam became the municipal chairperson on Friday, ending the nearly four-decade rule of the Kerala Congress (M), founded by political stalwart K M Mani.

It was also a revenge of sorts by Diya's father Binu Pulikkakandam, who was denied the chairperson post by KC(M), which is now being headed by Mani's son and Rajya Sabha member Jose K Mani.



Binu, Diya, and Biju.

With K M Mani representing the Pala Assembly constituency for over 50 consecutive years, from 1965 till his death in 2019, Pala had become a synonym for him and his party in Kerala politics.

But the KC(M) lost the Assembly seat in the 2019 by-poll, held following Mani's death. The KC(M), which is now a coalition partner of the Left Front, has now lost the Pala municipality as well.

Besides Binu and Diya, Binu's younger brother Biju Pulikkakandam has also won as an independent candidate in Pala.

In the 26-member council, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) has only 10 seats and the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) has 11 seats. The rest are five independents — including the Pulikkakandam-family trio.

After a series of deliberations by both the LDF and the UDF, the three members from the Pulikkakandam family and another independent candidate, Maya Rahul, decided to align with the latter.

It was decided that while Diya would be the chairperson, Maya Rahul would be the vice-chairperson.

Binu has been a councillor in Pala over the last 20 years. He was with the BJP and the CPM earlier.

In 2020, he won on a CPM ticket and staked a claim to the chairperson post, but Jose K Mani strongly opposed it.

Since then, he has been taking a strong stand against Jose K Mani. Hence, it is a sort of revenge for Binu and his family as Diya was chosen to be the chairperson.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Bail for Sengar: Laws lost in text

In the Delhi High Court's order suspending the life sentence of former BJP legislator from Uttar Pradesh Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who was convicted in the Unnao rape case, and granting him bail, there are tough questions India's criminal justice system must answer. Sengar is serving his sentence after being convicted of the 2017 rape of a minor and the conspiracy to murder her father. The case triggered outrage and widespread protests as Sengar tried to delay the investigation and intimidate the survivor and her family. It took a self-immolation attempt by the survivor outside the office of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to bring momentum to the probe. The trial was held in Delhi, following the Supreme Court's directive to move the case outside the state.

The court held that Sengar was not a public servant at the time of the offence, though he was an MLA then, and therefore would not be covered under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, which prescribes a life term as punishment. This is a technical and misinterpreted take on the provision. The trial court had defined a public servant as someone who enjoys an official position and is mandated to perform certain constitutional duties. While an appeal in the rape case is pending, the court rejected the survivor's request to wait for the ruling on the plea. Though the court imposed conditions on Sengar, including restrictions on his movements, the order is seen as a subversion of justice. The CBI, which investigated the case and assisted the prosecution, is facing criticism for not actively opposing the demand for bail and suspension of the sentence. It has, however, said it would appeal against the order.

The HC's ruling that makes an exception on technical grounds exposes the limits of legal interpretation

Protesting the order, the survivor has said she would challenge it in the Supreme Court. She has also expressed fears about the safety of her family and cited lapses in security, even before the verdict was pronounced. Reports said she and her mother were stopped by security personnel from holding a protest in Delhi against the order. The survivor has met Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and is planning to meet President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking justice. Women's and rights groups have protested against the High Court's order, highlighting the problematic precedent it sets. It is being pointed out that though bail is the rule for an undertrial, it should be the exception for a convict. Sengar does not deserve exceptional treatment or mercy.

Digital promise, familiar failings

The e-khata was conceived as a reform that would spare Bengalureans the agony of running from pillar to post for a basic property document. Instead, it has become a telling example of how digitisation, when layered over a broken administrative culture, can amplify rather than eliminate citizen suffering. That even a retired High Court judge and former chief secretary were reportedly denied e-khata should alarm the government. For lakhs of property owners, securing an e-khata has turned into a months-long ordeal marked by opaque rejections, technical glitches, and the ever-present shadow of corruption. In the last three months alone, thousands of applications have been rejected within the Greater Bengaluru Area, often without a credible explanation. According to senior officials, many rejections lacked genuine grounds. A Jayanagar resident who has lived on his property since 1959 had his application approved by a case worker, only to be later rejected on false grounds. It took multiple complaints and top-level intervention to expose the fraud, leading to the suspension of the revenue officer and the zonal deputy commissioner involved.

Such cases point not to isolated misconduct but to a systemic breakdown. The e-Aasthi portal, designed to be "faceless and contactless", is riddled with software mismatches and backend inconsistencies. Applications are rejected without clear reasons, forcing citizens to guess what went wrong. The supposedly digital process still depends on human intervention at multiple levels, creating artificial bottlenecks and a fertile ground for corruption. Errors in draft e-khatas – misspelt names or incorrect measurements – cannot be corrected online, pushing citizens back into the very offices digitisation was meant to bypass. Predictably, this opacity has fuelled an ecosystem of touts and middlemen.

Administrative and technological barriers turn the e-khata system into an obstacle course

Lokayukta raids and recent suspensions have exposed how digital files are stalled or illegally manipulated to extract bribes. The belated decision to constitute special surveillance teams to scrutinise rejected applications is itself an admission that internal checks have failed. The government's proposal to introduce passport seva kendra-style facilitation centres with defined timelines and accountability is a welcome corrective, but it comes late in the day. Ultimately, the state government, and particularly Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, must answer why a reform pushed so aggressively has been allowed to degenerate into a harassment machine. Suspending errant officials is necessary, but not sufficient. Without structural reform, transparency in rejections, and political accountability, e-khata will remain what it has become today: a digital façade masking an unchanged culture of arbitrariness and extortion.

FROM WELFARE TO STABILITY

The road to Viksit Bharat runs through Bihar

A structural shift anchored in jobs, skilling, and governance reform can script the state's elusive growth story

BAIKUNTH ROY AND SANTOSH MEHROTRA

The NDA's renewed mandate in Bihar coincides with a decisive phase in India's long-term development. As the country aspires to become a high-income economy, Bihar's economic trajectory cannot be treated as peripheral. With nearly 9% of India's population but only about 3% of the national GDP, Bihar represents one of the most enduring structural asymmetries in India's political economy. In 2005, Bihar's per capita income was 30% of India's PCI; today, it is the same. Whether this gap narrows or persists will depend critically on how the state's youthful demographic is integrated into productive economic activity.

Bihar's development challenge is structural and historically rooted. The Freight Equalisation Policy (1952-1993) systematically disincentivised industrialisation by neutralising location advantages in natural resources, diverting private investment away from regions like Bihar. This legacy was compounded by the 2000 bifurcation, which transferred most mineral-rich and industrial districts to Jharkhand, resulting in the loss of nearly three-fourths of industrial units and a substantial erosion of the state's revenue base. Even three decades after liberalisation, Bihar hosts just 1.3% of India's factories. The factory numbers are falling in a state desperately short of industrial jobs.

Despite episodes of high growth since the mid-2000s, this structural weakness has translated into chronically low incomes. On the revenue front, Bihar's own tax collection is only about 5.8% of its GSDP (2023-24), and transfer receipts from the Centre comprise 73% of its total revenue. This leaves Bihar below the national average of about 7% and behind peers such as Uttar Pradesh (9.8%), reflecting limited internal resource mobilisation. Bihar's per-capita income stood at Rs 66,828 in 2023-24, the lowest among major states and roughly one-third of the national average. Growth has not been employment-intensive nor productivity-enhancing enough to generate durable convergence.

This matters because Bihar is India's youngest large state. Nearly 58% of its population is below the age of 25, and about one-third falls in the 15-29 cohort. This generation is better educated, digitally connected, and aspirational, but also increasingly impatient with low-quality employment and governance failures. Their expectations from Viksit Bharat extend beyond welfare to stable jobs, skill-linked education, entrepreneurship opportunities, and institutional credibility.

Labour market indicators underscore the urgency. Bihar's labour force participation rate is just 43.4%, significantly below the national average of 56%, while female participation remains an abysmal 15.6%. Headline unemployment appears moderate at 3.9%, but this masks acute distress among the educated: unemployment among graduates is 14.7%.

The sectoral composition of employment explains much of this mismatch. Nearly half of the state's workforce remains trapped in agriculture (46% for India, 2023-24), characterised by low

productivity and rising climate vulnerability. Manufacturing employs only 5.7% of workers (11.5% in India), while services and construction absorb labour largely in informal and low-wage activities. Bihar's demographic advantage risks turning into a demographic burden.

Human development deficits further constrain productivity. Bihar ranks last on the Human Development Index, reflecting persistent shortfalls in health, education, and income. The state faces a 53% shortage of doctors relative to WHO norms. Learning outcomes remain weak, and in higher education, Bihar's gross enrolment ratio is 17.1% when the national average is 27%.

Migration has emerged as Bihar's primary labour-market adjustment mechanism. More than seven million workers are employed outside the state, mostly in the informal sectors, with remittances accounting for 8-10% of GSDP. While remittances sustain consumption, they also reflect local employment failure. The return of over 23 lakh migrants during the COVID-19 lockdown exposed the fragility of a development model reliant on outward mobility.

A wish list for 2047

First, employment must drive economic policy. Welfare expansion has helped reduce multidimensional poverty, from 51.9% in 2015-16 to 33.8% in 2019-21, but Bihar requires employment-intensive structural transformation, anchored in MSMEs, agro-processing, dairy, leather, textiles, logistics, healthcare, and knowledge services. Cluster-based industrialisation (Bihar has 112 existing organic clusters of labour-intensive manufacturing), rather than capital-heavy enclaves, offers the most viable path.

Second, skilling was nationally neglected for half a century, but even more so in Bihar. District-level skill hubs, upgraded ITIs and polytechnics, mandatory apprenticeships within higher education, and partnerships with private employers are essential. Without aligning education with labour market demand, rising educational attainment will only produce educated unemployment. Apprenticeship in such organised manufacturing/services is critical to avoid unfit students entering higher education.

Third, migration must shift from distress-driven to choice-based. Strengthening local urban economies, supporting returnee entrepreneurship in existing non-farm clusters, and expanding non-farm rural enterprises by improving infrastructure can gradually reverse Bihar's excessive dependence on external labour markets.

Fourth, governance reforms matter as much as spending; police vacancies run into lakhs (as do education/health sector vacancies). Youth expectations now centre on transparent recruitment, exam integrity, digital service delivery and safe public spaces, particularly for women. Institutional credibility is a prerequisite for investment, entrepreneurship and social trust.

Finally, aspirations must confront fiscal reality. In 2024-25, Bihar recorded a fiscal deficit of 9.2% of GSDP, with public debt at 38.9% of GSDP, placing it among India's most indebted states. With borrowing constrained by the FRBM framework, debt-led growth is neither feasible nor prudent. Expanding fiscal space will require better GST compliance, stronger municipal finances, higher credit flow to MSMEs, and leveraging private and multilateral funding rather than cutting development expenditure.

Bihar's youth are neither asking for symbolism nor demanding miracles. They are asking for structural change: an economy where education leads to skills, skills to jobs, and jobs to dignity; where migration is voluntary rather than distress-driven; and where governance turns aspiration into resilience. If the government succeeds in converting its youth from welfare beneficiaries into drivers of structural transformation, Bihar will not only rewrite its own development trajectory but shape India's journey to 2047. In no small measure, the future of India's development project runs through Bihar.

(Baikunth is an assistant professor of Economics at Patliputra University; Santosh taught Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Leaving Neverland

I hope he remains Peter Pan at heart, even as he grows up

SUDHA DEVI NAYAK

Kabir has been a little boy for a long while, a very long while. He was Peter Pan, the eternal child of a magical island, Neverland, who flew from place to place with a flowing cape on soundless wings, a child who was a cherub with a mop of hair and flashing eyes and an enchanting smile that broke hearts that never quite became whole again. Suddenly one day he was all of four years old, packing his books in his backpack, swinging it onto his slender shoulders with practised nonchalance, and walking to the lift for his school van – with Mama in tow.

Kabir was an excellent conversationalist with a flair for words. When I spilt his milk on the table, I said self-deprecatingly, "Oh, I always do a bad job."

"No, Nani," he countered with his encouraging comment, "You also do a good job," doing wonders to my ego. One day he said, "Now I am a little big, but when I am bigger I will be an astronaut in my space suit." "You will walk the skies," I said admiringly, and he said contemptuously, "Astronauts don't walk; they fly and travel in their spaceships."

Kabir's ambition is not limited to becoming an astronaut; he wants to be Superman, Spiderman, and Batman. "Also a policeman," he adds as an afterthought and for good measure. "How can you manage?" I ask him. "Oh, I'm smart," he says with cocky self-assurance. Kabir is proud of his toy gun and silver bullets, and brandishing his gun, says, "I will finish all bad people if they come to take me or Nani."

He has an eye for nature; when he sees the trees swaying in the breeze, he says, "The trees are dancing, Nani; that means rain, thunder and lightning." For all his bravado, at the first rumble of thunder and flash of lightning, Kabir ducks for cover under his sheets.

He marvels at the birds flying and at the clouds drifting by, which he tells me are "blue pillows". Kabir is one for cars. He has a fleet, organises traffic jams, fills up parking slots, prepares for head-on collisions and also long orderly lines waiting for traffic lights to change. All these elaborate planned layouts on the dining table, and God help you if you place a bowl of *dal* or curry anywhere in the vicinity of his cars. The table is declared out of bounds for everything and everyone until his operation is over.

Kabir has stepped out of Neverland; he is growing up, and one day when he is fully grown, I hope he will still be Peter Pan at heart, travelling to different lands and skies, carrying the beauty and innocence, and believing as Peter Pan did, "All the world is made of faith, trust and pixie dust."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defend democracy against intolerance

Apropos 'A message of discord and intolerance' (Dec 25), intolerance cannot be normalised in a democracy. The repeated attacks on Christians send a deeply troubling message about the state of religious freedom and harmony in India. When minorities are harassed with impunity, victims are punished instead of perpetrators, and prejudice is justified through law, democracy itself is weakened. Allegations of forced conversion have become a convenient excuse to silence and intimidate entire communities. Constitutional rights cannot exist only on paper; they must be defended on the ground. The editorial rightly points out that symbolic gestures and statements of unity ring hollow unless accompanied by firm action against hate, violence, and selective law enforcement. A nation that prides itself on diversity cannot allow intolerance.
Nazneen Khan, Bengaluru

Unsafe highways

This refers to 'Six die in Chitradurga bus-truck crash; most victims burnt alive' (Dec 26). The accident is a grim snapshot of India's highways today. Such tragedies are no longer aberrations but outcomes of systemic neglect. High-speed roads are built without safe medians, controlled access points, crash barriers or emergency response planning. Overloaded trucks, fatigued drivers and poorly maintained buses continue unchecked, while enforcement remains sporadic and reactive. Equally culpable is our collective indifference. Rash overtaking, distracted driving and violation of basic safety norms are treated as minor lapses rather than lethal risks. Road design, regulation and driver accountability should be treated as non-negotiable.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Human negligence

Apropos 'Elephant deaths call for new safety approach' (Dec 25), it highlights the alarming loss of wildlife due to human negligence. Effective planning, real-time monitoring, and accountability are essential to ensure infrastructure growth does not harm wildlife.
Riteka A J, Hosur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The BJP-ruled states are a different India, with poverty, religious violence, murders, and unemployment...No matter how much the BJP tries, it cannot incite religious fanaticism among the people of Tamil Nadu who live in unity....

M K Stalin, Tamil Nadu CM

Doubt is an uncomfortable condition, but certainty is a ridiculous one.

Voltaire

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Mob justice and Kerala's moral drift

A lynching exposes prejudices that authorise violence. Can the state arrest the alarming symptoms?

K A SHAJI

Kerala has long wrapped itself in the comfort of exception. Higher literacy, stronger public health, and a history of social reform movements that challenged caste and hierarchy when much of India remained silent. It is a story the state tells itself with pride. But every few years, that mirror cracks, and what looks back is a crowd standing over a broken body, convinced it has done society a favour.

In 2018, it was Madhu, a young Adivasi man from Attappady. Hungry and disoriented, he was accused of stealing food. He was chased, caught, paraded, beaten, and killed. Men who looked like neighbours and shopkeepers became judge, jury, and executioner. Kerala gasped, protested, promised reform, and then slowly learned to live with the memory.

Last week, the pattern repeated itself. In Walayar, Palakkad district, a migrant worker was beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of theft. There were whispers too about nationality, about whether he was "Bangladeshi". By the time the police arrived, justice – brutal and primitive – had already been performed. Yesterday, it was a tribal man. Today, it is a guest worker. Tomorrow, it will be someone else who lacks the armour of social privilege. This is not an aberration. It is a warning.

A lynching is not just a crime of violence. It is a crime of confidence. A mob forms only when people are sure they can get away with it, socially if not legally. It forms when the crowd believes the victim's life is negotiable, that their fear, poverty, accent or hunger places them outside the circle of full citizenship. At that moment, the mob does not feel criminal. It feels authorised.

That authorisation comes from silence, from selective outrage, from the language we casually use about "outsiders", "thieves", and "suspicious people". Kerala's discomfort is that these lynchings happen despite institutions, not in their absence. This is a state with police stations within reach, with strong local governance structures, and an educated public that knows the difference between accusation and proof.

The term Kerala uses for the migrant worker exposes a hypocrisy: *athithi thozhilali* (guest worker); it sounds warm and civilised. But guests are not beaten to death on the roadside because someone shouted "thief".

Migrant workers across Kerala live in a state of conditional acceptance. They are welcome as labour, unwelcome as neighbours. Essential to the economy, invisible in public life. This is not unique to Kerala. Across India, migrants are increasingly treated as surplus humans, tolerated in good times and targeted in moments of anxiety. They are accused of stealing jobs, changing cultures, and spreading crime.

A moment to introspect

Kerala's particular failure lies in its self-image. A society that believes it is inherently progressive often stops listening when it is told it is becoming intolerant. It reacts with denial. It says, "This is not who we are." But lynching is not an alien import. It grows quietly in the soil of everyday insensitivity.

Look at what connects Madhu and the migrant worker in Walayar. Both were poor. Both were alone. Both were denied the dignity of explanation, of defence, of humanity. And in both cases, the crowd felt morally superior.

After every such killing, the script is familiar. Condemnations are issued. Arrests are made. Assurances are given that Kerala will not tolerate mob justice. And yet, the deeper questions are avoided. Why did no one intervene? Why did fear overpower empathy completely? Why did bystanders film instead of stopping the assault? Why did the idea of handing someone over to the police seem weaker than the thrill of instant punishment?

Progressiveness cannot be measured by literacy rates alone. It must be measured by how a society treats its most defenceless when panic sets in; by whether people trust institutions enough to step back from violence. It must be measured by whether difference is seen as a fact of life or a provocation.

Kerala still has a choice. It can treat these lynchings as isolated stains on an otherwise clean record, or it can confront them as symptoms of a moral drift. That confrontation must go beyond policing. It requires political leaders to stop feeding suspicion. It requires the media to resist dog-whistle narratives. It requires civil society to intervene before, not mourn after. And it requires ordinary citizens to rediscover the courage to say no to the crowd.

A society does not lose its humanity overnight. It loses it gradually, each time it looks away while a mob tightens its circle. Kerala should be frightened not because these killings happened, but because they felt possible.

(The writer is a South India-based journalist who has chronicled rural distress and environmental struggles)

The polls in Myanmar will not change the country's trajectory but may entrench China's dominance and narrow India's room to manoeuvre

Elections in Myanmar: A farce by force?

GAUTAM MUKHOPADHAYA

Myanmar's military regime plans elections in three phases from December 28, nearly five years after it staged a coup on February 1, 2021, annulling the November 2020 Parliament and forcibly removing Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD). The polls, largely ignored internationally, are aimed at legitimising the junta's rule, which was already extended through repeated emergency provisions, going far beyond the military-written 2008 Constitution.

The regime hopes to weaken popular resistance and regain global acceptance, hiding itself behind a staged civilian, democratic façade.

The elections will take place against the backdrop of the conflict's evolution from a non-violent civil disobedience movement against centralised military rule to widespread armed resistance across the Bamar heartland and surrounding ethnic hill areas. The human costs — casualties, torture, deaths in custody, political prisoners, displacement and refugees — have been huge.

The resistance against the military regime peaked between October 2023 and December 2024, when the Three Brotherhood Alliance (3BHA) seized two major Regional Military Commands — in Lashio in the northeast and Ann in Rakhine State — through a coordinated offensive. The alliance also captured most border trade posts and around 94 of Myanmar's 330 townships, with at least 160 more actively contested. It took control of much of Arakan and Chin states and exerted pressure on strategic northern towns, including, briefly, Mandalay, but could not push its offensive further.

By mid-2025, as the junta planned elections, the opposition offensive was blunted by China's pressure on ethnic resistance organisations (EROs) under its influence in northeastern Myanmar. Heavy use of air power and artillery against civilian areas, the opposition's failure to consolidate gains or build a united, coordinated leadership and a broad political-diplomatic front, and some disorder in its command structure also aided the military's defence. A major earthquake brought humanitarian relief and breathing space for the junta. Regional worries about possible balkanization, transnational crime, and stability — along with ASEAN's paralysis and distraction caused by the Thailand–Cambodia conflict — further discouraged serious proactive diplomacy on Myanmar.

China's decision to back the junta openly, the US's indifference under President Donald Trump, and Russia's offensive against a wobbling Western alliance in Ukraine created the geopolitical space for the military government to pursue its ruthless campaign against the opposition and proceed with elections.

By October 2025, China forced two opposition armies — the Kokang MNDAA and the Palaung TNLA — to sign ceasefires with the junta, and the army had wrested back key towns in northeastern Myanmar, such as Lashio, Nawnghkio, and Mogok, easing pressure on Mandalay. But these gains could be overstated, reversible, and pyrrhic. To the west, the junta has not made much headway against the Chin forces, the Arakan Army, and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).

Elections will not take place in 56 opposition-held townships and will be only partially held in 93 out of 330, on grounds of lack of security. Draconian provisions for registration of political parties and the conduct of elections have outlawed and constrained the NLD and other major opposition political parties, who have boycotted the elections anyway on grounds of foul play. Voting is likely to be thin.

So, by almost all independent accounts, the elections will be a farce implemented by force. The only claim to legitimacy of the elections will be that they will be held regardless of the number of people voting. This will pave the way for the "King's Party", the USDP, to win elections. Its outcome will also be favourable to China.

The junta hopes that the elections will help it win enough international legitimacy with the help of Russia, China, and possibly India, as well as a section of ASEAN, to form a government with an acceptable face, escape international isolation, attract sufficient investment and commerce to procure more arms and stabilise the economy, and regain its seat in the UN. It can draw some encouragement from the recent decision of Donald Trump's administration to deport refugees to Myanmar from the US on the grounds that the situation in the Southeast Asiancountry is normal enough for elections to be held..

For China, Myanmar's dependence on it provides an opportunity to influence internal politics in favour of its strategic and economic interests that include access to the Bay of Bengal, Belt and Road Initiative projects, energy pipelines, connectivity, trade and transit routes through Myanmar, and commercial investments in natural resources and real estate.

But the junta is unlikely to be able to establish its writ nationwide, especially in Rakhine and the dry zone of central Myanmar in Sagaing and Magway, the heart of the Bamar insurgency that is the nationalist bulwark against Chinese domination and hegemony.

The National Unity Government, formed by leaders opposed to the junta, has not built a unified command or system of governance, even in "liberated" areas under ethnic organisations, and its diplomatic gains are modest. Equally telling is the failure to build on the 3BHA's 2023–24 gains, provide national coordination, and turn scattered mutinies into a single offensive for a democratic and federal Myanmar.

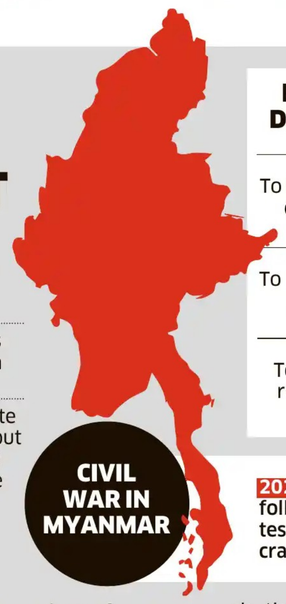
Nor has enough been done to develop a political framework for autonomy, federalism, and democracy beyond the 2023 Charter. Unless the opposition raises its military, political, and diplomatic game — or the military or international community propose something more imaginative — Myanmar will remain contested after the elections.

India — a pluralist democracy with federal traits — could have played a constructive counterweight to China. In late 2024, it briefly tried by hosting both military and opposition representatives. But India and others erred by underestimating how irreconcilable democracy and federalism are with centralised military rule in today's Myanmar, and by leaving the issue of Myanmar to ASEAN. A better course for the international community, ASEAN, and India is to steer Myanmar toward a federal, democratic union.

The elections will not change Myanmar's trajectory but may entrench China's dominance and narrow India's room for manoeuvre. India should lean on its democratic and pluralist strengths in managing its relations with Myanmar, instead of imitating China.

(The writer is a retired diplomat who served as India's ambassador to Myanmar between June 2013 and May 2016)

BALLOT UNDER BAYONET



- **Myanmar** is set for elections to its currently dissolved bicameral Parliament
- These are the first polls since the **military coup** in **February 2021**
- The junta claims the vote will restore democracy, but most see it as an attempt to legitimise military rule even as the civil war continues

2021: Coup follows protests, harsh crackdowns

2022: Conflict widens as resistance grows

2023: Anti-junta forces unite

2024: Opposition gains towns; airstrikes by the military intensify.

2025: Fighting persists; humanitarian crisis deepens.

- About **80,000+** killed, including thousands of civilians
- Some **3.5 million** people were displaced, and many fled abroad

20,000+ political leaders, activists jailed – including Aung San Suu Kyi

Several ethnic militias declared plans to block voting in territories under their control

Elections: Phases, Dates and Coverage

PHASE 1
To be held in **102 townships** on **December 28, 2025**

PHASE 2
To be held in **100 townships** on **January 11, 2026**

PHASE 3
To be held in some of the remaining **townships** on **January 25, 2026**

- Large numbers of townships in conflict zones and in territories held by forces fighting the junta are excluded due to **security risks** and lack of military control.
- Only a limited number of political parties are contesting the elections, like the **Union Solidarity and Development Party** (USDP), and others closely aligned with or approved by the junta
- **National League for Democracy** (NLD), led by **Aung San Suu Kyi**, and **Shan Nationalities League** for Democracy, won **88% seats** in Parliament in the 2020 elections, but they would not take part in the coming polls, as the junta dissolved them.
- Some citizens choose not to register or vote, seeing participation as legitimising military rule
- The **National Unity Government** (NUG), a parallel government opposed to the junta, has rejected and denounced the "sham elections" to be conducted by the "terrorist military".

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- The **United Nations** and the human rights organisations expressed deep concern about exclusion, repression, and the fairness of the elections in Myanmar
- **India** supported Myanmar's "**transition to democracy**", underlining that participation of all political stakeholders would be important for the credibility and stability of the elections, which should be "**free, fair and inclusive**"
- China extended its support to the elections in Myanmar
- **The Association of Southeast Asian Nations** (ASEAN) expressed concerns over the continued conflict in Myanmar, **decided against sending observers for the elections**
- Some **United States** lawmakers urged President Donald Trump to reject Myanmar's elections as illegitimate after his administration cited progress towards democracy in the Southeast Asian nation to end protections for the country's citizens in America.

Illustration by **Deepak Harichandan**

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Rise in emissions doesn't mean the world is failing

The Paris Agreement has put us in a far better position than the world would have been without it, writes Lara Williams

When 196 nations adopted the momentous Paris climate accord, the UK prime minister at the time, David Cameron, wrote on Twitter: "Our grandchildren will see we did our duty."

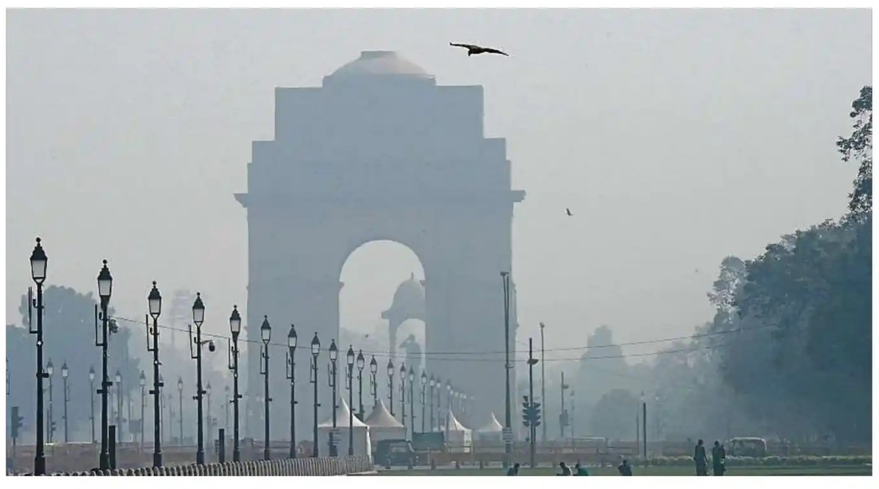
Ten years later, what would those grandchildren think? Because the Paris Agreement has started to look like a failure. But that only holds if you're fixated on the end goal rather than the journey.

The legally binding treaty aims to limit climate change to "well below 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts to keep the increase close to 1.5°C. It also specifies that countries should reach a "global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions" as soon as possible. But carbon emissions continue to grow and, although climate impacts have intensified, anti-climate sentiments are on the rise.

This year, the US — which is responsible for about 24% of all emissions ever pumped into the atmosphere — withdrew from the international treaty for the second time and has now been under almost a full year of anti-climate policies under President Donald Trump. The European Union has also weakened key environmental regulations, including its 2035 ban on combustion engines and pollution reporting requirements. Elsewhere, greenhushing, which plays down environmental efforts to avoid political scrutiny, is on the rise among companies.

Many experts are now almost sure that the 1.5°C temperature target is toast. Copernicus, the EU's Earth observation service, said the last three years were set to be the first period when the average temperature rise would exceed that goal. We are nowhere near achieving net-zero emissions.

But, as Cameron Hepburn, an environmental economics professor at the University of Oxford's Smith School, told me: "Paris is only a disappointment if you had inappropriately high expectations in the first place."



The treaty gave us a multi-time-period, multi-prisoner dilemma. Part of the problem is that the Paris Agreement imposes no penalties for inadequate plans or actions, thereby creating a strong incentive to free-ride. While only those parties that cut emissions have to bear the costs, everyone benefits from their efforts.

Meanwhile, it's too tempting for petrostates to keep squeezing profits out of their businesses. After all, oil and gas companies alone have earned about $2.5 billion a day in profit over the last 50 years, according to a 2022 analysis of World Bank data. Why would oil and gas-producing countries give up that revenue? So if we're judging the accord on emissions alone, it was practically doomed to fail from the start.

Looking at the bigger picture, however, the Paris Agreement has put us in a far better position than we would have been without it. In October 2015, Climate Action Tracker, an independent science-based project, calculated that policies and actions at the time put the world on track for 3.6 °C of warming by 2100. Projected warming is now 2.6°C. Though that's still too high for comfort, it signals significant progress.

By creating "a whole new idea of going to zero" emissions, as Niklas Hohne, co-founder of NewClimate Institute, explained to me, the Paris Agreement also sparked a flurry of innovation. If researchers didn't believe that anyone would want green technologies, then why would they invest time and money in them? The accord signalled an appetite for net-zero materials and processes.

Ever since, research and money have been flowing toward green transition sectors — and at an ever-increasing pace. For example, the EU's Innovation Fund, created to help the bloc meet its commitments under the treaty, has supported the development of batteries, carbon-negative cement and advanced recycling.

But what happens to fossil-fuel emissions will ultimately dictate the fate of the planet. Demand remains at an all-time high, and though the International Energy Agency forecasts that fossil-fuel use will peak before 2030, it also acknowledges that if governments abandon their stated intentions, oil and gas demand will continue to rise.

Still, people are sure that emissions will peak by 2030, though that's later than many climate scientists would prefer. Hohne believes that as renewables become more available and less expensive, we can reduce CO2 emissions much faster than previously thought.

For another sign that the climate treaty has done its job, consider trends in often-overlooked regions. Pakistan is experiencing a massive, unanticipated solar boom. Rooftop power generation is expected to exceed daytime grid demand in some large industrial regions for the first time next year. Driven by residents' frustration with soaring electricity prices and power failures, the adoption of photovoltaics has allowed businesses and consumers to access reliable, cheap power.

Many African countries are set to replicate that expansion: Solar panel imports from China to the continent rose 60% in the 12 months to June, according to a report from think tank Ember. Records were set in 20 countries, including Kenya, Algeria and Nigeria. Although the continent accounts for only about 4% of global emissions, it has a rapidly growing population and is industrialising. Switching to clean technology now avoids substantial future growth in CO2 emissions.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia and Nepal are embracing electric vehicles like never before. More than 70% of four-wheeled passenger vehicles imported to Nepal last year were electric, and the adoption is helping to reduce Kathmandu's air pollution crisis, which caused nearly 19% of all deaths in 2021.

Although the Paris Agreement undoubtedly catalysed the EV industry's rapid development, in Ethiopia, the primary driver of widespread adoption is cost savings. The nation spends approximately $4.5 billion importing fuel each year, while drivers have endured chronic fuel shortages and rising prices. EVs eliminate that problem.

It's shifts like these, where cleantech makes economic sense, that will power the next decade or longer of the climate transition. Whether the Paris Agreement still exists in its current form by then, it has done a remarkable job of sparking a green revolution that is only just beginning to take off. That's not a failure to me.

BLOOMBERG OPINION

DID YOU KNOW?

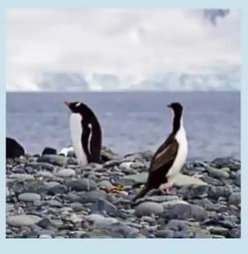
Penguins become prey for the pumas of Patagonia

Penguins in the southern seas have to worry about being picked off by seals or orcas. On land, they can find safety in numbers. But in the Patagonia region of Argentina, the flightless seabirds are becoming snacks for an unexpected land predator: pumas.

When pumas disappeared from Patagonia in the early 20th century, Magallanic penguins established large breeding colonies on Argentina's coast. Conservation efforts have reintroduced pumas, setting the stage for novel interactions.

Mitchell Serota, an ecologist and lead author of new research published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, was interested in how the penguins were reshaping puma movement patterns. He was also curious about how pumas interacted with one another and about their population density.

To understand the behavioural changes, Serota and some of his colleagues put GPS collars on 14 pumas in Monte León National Park. Based on data collected from 2019 to 2023, the team found that pumas' behaviour changed as they spent more time near the penguin colony. Pumas that hunted penguins had smaller territories, and they interacted more frequently around the colony.



After integrating GPS tracking with camera-trap data, scientists also documented what may be the highest density of pumas ever recorded at a specific site, Serota said. Although pumas are solitary, their population density in this area was approximately twice that observed elsewhere, resulting in more interactions. Serota likened this to grizzly bears tolerating one another during a salmon run. "Food can bring predators together," he said.

Changes to ecosystems can affect when, where and how predators obtain their food, leading to broader ecological effects. For pumas in the region, which typically feed on guanacos, a llama-like herbivore, the environmental effects remain unknown.

"Because pumas and guanacos form the dominant predator-prey relationship in the region, changes in how pumas move and hunt can have these massive ripple effects," Serota said. For Serota, the study showed how a new predator-prey relationship can transform the ecosystem.

"Restoring wildlife in today's changed landscapes doesn't simply rewind ecosystems to the past," he said. "It can create these entirely new interactions that reshape animal behaviour and populations in really unexpected ways."

- The New York Times

Driving licence can't extend automatically on expiry: Supreme Court

Says licence-holder incompetent to drive from the day it expires

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said that a driving licence cannot now automatically extend beyond the period of its expiry, as was provided for in the unamended last proviso to Section 14 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and S V N Bhatti pointed out, after the Amendment Act, 2019, from the very next day after the date of expiry, without renewal, the person holding an expired licence is incompetent to drive the vehicles.

"The first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 15, gives a window to a person for renewal of his existing licence, which starts one year prior to the date of the expiry of the licence and continues for one year post-expiry. The theory that once a licence is renewed, even after a gap, the renewal would operate from a back date implying that the licence was continuing and valid even for and during the interregnum cannot be countenanced," the bench said.

The court explained the legal position in a judgment on December 18, allowing an appeal by the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board against the HC's 2023 judgment.

The HC had allowed a plea by a group of aspirants to apply to the post of driver, though their driving licences had expired within a period which was two years prior to the date of notification in continuity, but who had got the same renewed after some gap.

Setting aside the HC order, the bench said, "Section 14 of the 1988 Act, as it stands today, does not provide for the licence to continue after its expiry even for a single day; however, before the Amendment Act, 2019, the then-existing proviso made the date extendable automatically by a further period of 30 days from the date of its expiry."

The apex court held the requirement or the condition that for the last two years continuously preceding the dates of the notifications, the candidates should possess driving licences cannot be termed unreasonable.

The bench also said, the requirement of possessing a licence continuously for a period of two years prior to the dates of the notifications cannot be negated only because in the driving test, a person may pass.

"The driving test is by way of abundant caution to verify and ensure that the candidate is in regular practice of driving," the bench said.

HC grants bail to YouTuber Shankar, raps DMK govt

CHENNAI, DHNS: Granting interim bail to popular Tamil YouTuber 'Savukku' Shankar on medical grounds, the Madras High Court on Friday castigated the DMK dispensation for repeatedly incarcerating him.

'Savukku' Shankar

A division bench of justices S M Subramaniam and P Dhanabal granted interim bail to Shankar for 12 weeks on a petition filed by his mother, who said her son is a cardiac patient and needs special care. "This Court is unable to understand why one particular individual, who is a YouTube Journalist has repeatedly been incarcerated by the Law Enforcement Agency. It raises suspicion as to whether the petitioner's son herein has become a target of the ruling dispensation as alleged by her," the judges said.

They said the history of this individual showcases instances where the Goondas Act has been invoked against this individual repeatedly for expressing his views on YouTube videos on the actions of the state government.

Shankar, known for his critical views of the DMK dispensation, was arrested on December 13 in connection with a criminal case filed against him. Though the police didn't officially divulge the reason for his arrest, Shankar alleged that he was being arrested for a Rs 94,000 UPI transaction.

Railways to double capacity in 48 major cities by 2030

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Indian Railways has unveiled plans to double the capacity of originating trains in 48 major cities across the country, including Bengaluru and Mysuru, by the year 2030.

The move is aimed at meeting the rapidly growing demand for travel and easing congestion at busy stations. "While the plan to double the capacity is by 2030, it is expected to be increased progressively in the next five years, so that the benefits of capacity addition can be reaped immediately," said the Railways in a statement.

The plan is expected to classify actions under three categories: immediate, short-term, and long-term.

The current infrastructure needs to be augmented to meet the requirements of the upcoming years, the statement added.

The works for doubling the originating capacity by 2030 would include augmenting the current terminals with additional platforms, stabling lines, pit lines, and adequate shunting facilities; identifying and creating new terminals in and around the urban area; maintenance facilities, including mega-coaching complexes; increasing the sectional capacity with traffic facility works; signaling upgradation; and multitracking required for handling increased trains at various points.

While planning for increasing the capacity of terminals, stations around terminals will also be considered so that capacity is evenly balanced.

The capacity-augmentation exercise is expected to be done for both suburban and non-suburban traffic, keeping in view the distinct requirements of both segments.

A comprehensive plan for 48 major cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Hyderabad, is said to be under consideration.

The plan is expected to include the works planned, proposed, or already sanctioned to achieve the goal of doubling the capacity of handling trains in a time-bound manner, the statement said.

Kerala Congress leader booked for sharing AI image of CM with gold-heist accused

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A Congress leader in Kerala was on Thursday booked for sharing an artificial intelligence (AI)-generated photograph of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan with Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold heist accused Unnikrishnan Potti.

The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee's political affairs panel member N Subrahmanian was booked by the Chevayoor police in Kozhikode for allegedly sharing the AI-generated image on social media.

A case was registered under Section 192 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for wantonly giving provocation with an intent to cause a riot, and Section 120(o) of the Kerala Police Act for causing annoyance through communication.

The police, in due course, could also book others who shared the image.

Video surfaces

Meanwhile, a video of the function where Pinarayi and Potti were present has surfaced.

CPM sources claimed it was clear from the video that the image of Pinarayi talking to Potti was fabricated.

Congress leaders, meanwhile, continued to attack the CM for referring to AICC leader Sonia Gandhi's picture with Potti.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan said Pinarayi was trying to divert attention from the gold-heist probe by referring to the picture.

"It was substandard on his part to raise allegations against Sonia Gandhi. Even as a picture of Pinarayi with Potti came out, the Congress did not allege that he was involved in the gold heist," he said.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

I REMEMBER THAT GIRL WHO USED TO KICK ME, MR. B.? WELL, NOW SHE'S TROLLING ME ONLINE!
HOW?
SHE HACKED INTO MY TOY MANIAC APP AND DELETED A BUNCH OF MY COMMENTS
SHE'S TRYING TO GET YOUR ATTENTION
I'M SURE GLAD WE DATED BEFORE YOU COULD'VE HACKED INTO MY GOONEY GOLF APP
SOMETIMES I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT

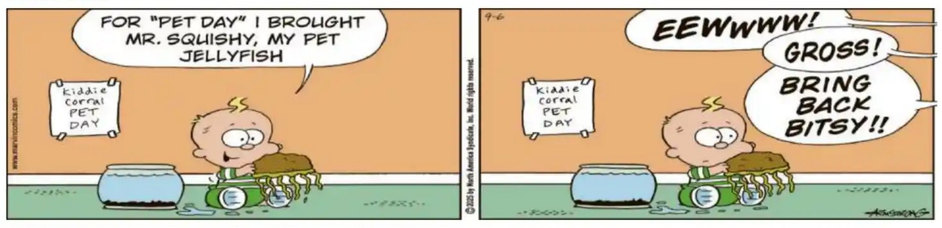
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

IT'S TOO HOT TO PLAY BALL TODAY!
THE TEMPERATURE MUST BE A HUNDRED!
ABOUT THE SAME AS YOUR BATTING AVERAGE
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY THAT!

Marvin



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

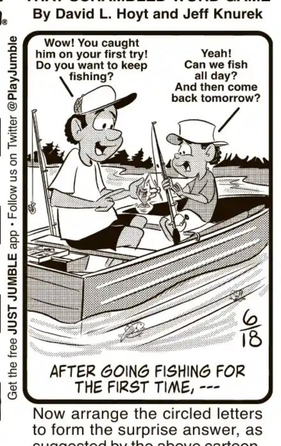
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KONNW

RCDOH

DEREGE

SNHVAI


Wow! You caught him on your first try! Do you want to keep fishing?
Yeah! Can we fish all day? And then come back tomorrow?
AFTER GOING FISHING FOR THE FIRST TIME, ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: NINTH DITCH PACIFY FORGET
Answer: After realizing they were missing components needed to set up the tent, he — PITCHED A FIT

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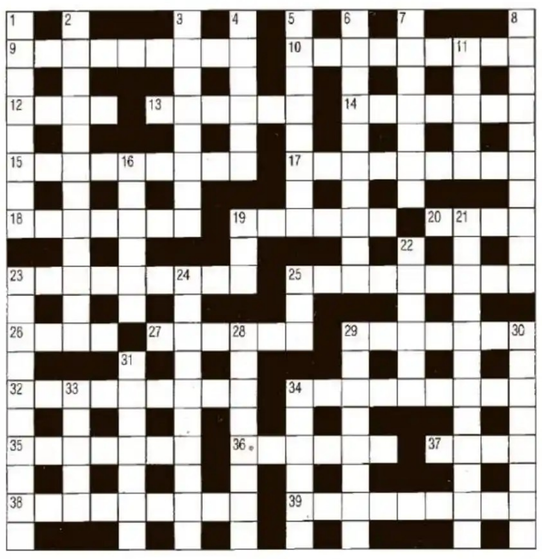
CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4020



CRYPTIC

ACROSS

9 Concerning the country, exaggerate (9)
10 I'm entering an amazing plus one – just came naturally (2,7)
12 The ex who's keeping one waiting (4)
13 Caught entering the store, you truss up and take to (6)
14 Put in an order for a cooker, verbally (7)
15 The lag's record, or who may have access to it (9)
17 He won't drink from a stein poured in the mixed bar (9)
18 The extract has turned the juice green (7)
19 Shut up. It's only a hundred! (6)
20 Even pad (4)
23 Entering the conversation in ringing tones? (7,2)
25 Having dished out in advance, kept (9)
26 Specifying which container, we get right to the point (4)
27 Looked at the jagged dart's point embedded in (6)
29 Bets they're stand-ins (7)
32 Where the junk dealers go all metric? (5,4)
34 The phoney siren goes off outside – nice diversion (9)
35 He'll tell you spring is here (7)
36 Squeal on a big noise (6)
37 Getting on after the man, contrived to (4)
38 Prognosticates, when one chooses the players in advance (9)
39 In essence, material possessions or wealth (9)

DOWN

1 Messes about with the covering – paper (8)
2 Being lax about the tyres that keep skidding? (7,5)
3 Not so awful that it stops you in your tracks? (8)
4 Far be it from me to move in again! (6)
5 Shrink from the act of touching physically, right through (8)
6 As a result, the orchestrator will make no more changes to it (5,5)
7 Tough, stretch across to grab the man (7)
8 At prison was treated badly, but got through it (10)
11 Material of which there are fifty-nine varieties (5)
16 Very melancholy at the time, giving up one's smoke (6)
19 Don't allow to catch up (3)
21 Neck and neck in the cribbage game? (5,7)
22 Interest in the homecoming (6)
23 Fed up working in the dairy? (7,3)
24 Manages to convey, when one's given an award (4,6)
25 Paper required to make the article longer (3)
28 Left, incensed by the organisation (3,5)
29 Tell about, while scattering seed round the bed (8)
30 In a desire to break the record, coming back even faster (8)
31 At home when the chaps came round, prepared food (7)
33 Its mouth may be full of fish (5)
34 Put on the piano some I am about to play (6)

ACROSS

9 Bring down (9)
10 Vaccinate (9)
12 Seedcases (4)
13 Posture (6)
14 Blow up (7)
15 Bolster (9)
17 Lifeless (9)
18 Disappointment (7)
19 Boil (6)
20 Second Greek letter (4)
23 Typify (9)
25 Historical account (9)
26 Simple (4)
27 Weighing device (6)
29 Rational (7)
32 Sailor (9)
34 Try hard (9)
35 Most desirable (7)
36 Transparent (6)
37 Frail (4)
38 Esteemed (9)
39 Nocturnal (9)

DOWN

1 Of the body (8)
2 Senior teacher (12)
3 Brothers (8)
4 Pang (6)
5 Similarly (8)
6 Ancestor (10)
7 Guilty party (7)
8 Slow down (10)
11 Fragrance (5)
16 Limp (6)
19 Pig pen (3)
21 Reference book (12)
22 Mystery (6)
23 Nail file (5,5)
24 Unfinished (10)
25 Lettuce (3)
28 Female proprietor (8)
29 Digs (8)
30 Small parrot (8)
31 Stutter (7)
33 Quotes (5)
34 White fur (6)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12318

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1, Ba-N-jo 6, State 9, Al-er-tly 10, Be-ar-d 11, Ur-G-es 12, Gnome 13, Pi-lot-Ed. 15, Hot 17, Rai-N 18, Celer-y 19, Smear 20, Sh-in-e's 22, Some (sum) 24, So-D 25, Don-ated 26, Licit 27, Carol 28, Catty 29, Flotsa-M 30, Feste 31, P-Ian-o

DOWN: 2, AM-Elia 3, Jar-gon(-e) 4, Old 5, Grand 6, Slumber 7, Tyre 8, Tre-mor 12, Ger-ms 13, Press 14, Livid 15, Helot 16, Typed 18, C-abot 19, SE-ville 21, Horace 22, Sal-ami 23, (Mrs) Merton 25, Ditto 26, L-oft 28, Cap

EASY

ACROSS: 1, Cheap 6, Peals 9, Foraged 10, Cleft 11, Rinse 12, React 13, Locales 15, End 17, Away 18, Engage 19, Leant 20, Global 22, Cede 24, Eel 25, Smaller 26, Belly 27, Stair 28, Avail 29, Rapture 30, Drool 31, Tried

DOWN: 2, Hollow 3, Affray 4, Pot 5, Hades 6, Per cent 7, Edit 8, Losing 12, Rebel 13, Large 14, Carol 15, Easel 16, Deter 18, Enemy 19, Lateral 21, Letter 22, Clever 23, Decide 25, Slate 26, Biro 28, Art

◆SU-DO-KU-6788◆

		2		9	5		8	4
						3		7
								5
8		4	5					
2			7		9			3
					1	6		8
9								
7		5						
1	8		6	4		5		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6787

2	1	6	3	9	4	8	7	5
5	9	7	8	1	6	2	3	4
8	4	3	7	2	5	6	9	1
1	8	2	6	5	9	3	4	7
7	6	9	1	4	3	5	2	8
4	3	5	2	8	7	1	6	9
6	5	1	4	7	2	9	8	3
9	2	4	5	3	8	7	1	6
3	7	8	9	6	1	4	5	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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O1 B3 A1 O1 B3 M3 A1 — RACK 1

O1 H4 E1 U1 G2 N1 U1 — Double Word Score — RACK 2

E1 E1 G2 N1 R1 L1 T1 — RACK 3

O1 D2 U1 T1 V4 T1 E1 — 3rd Letter Double — RACK 4

PAR SCOR 65-75
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

T1 W4 I1 N1 S1 E1 T1 — RACK 1 = 80
O1 R1 A1 N1 G2 E1 S1 — RACK 2 = 74
I1 R1 O1 N1 I1 S1 T1 — RACK 3 = 71
S1 T1 R1 O1 K5 E1 D2 — RACK 4 = 86
PAR SCORE 205-215 — JUDD'S TOTAL 311

HITORI-3242

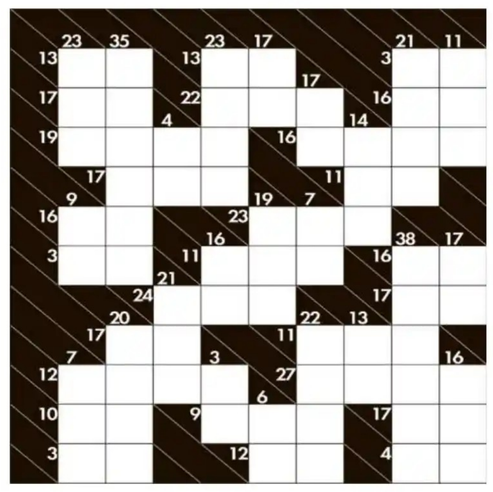
5	8	6	1	2	5	3	4
5	6	4	4	1	7	4	2
3	1	4	4	1	6	8	8
8	2	5	8	4	8	1	7
2	5	8	6	5	4	8	1
8	7	1	8	5	3	6	8
8	4	3	7	2	1	5	5
5	3	8	8	7	5	5	6

SOLUTION TO 3241

5	■	1	4	6	■	3	■
8	1	6	5	■	4	2	3
7	4	■	2	1	3	8	■
4	2	3	■	7	■	5	6
■	6	■	1	4	5	■	2
2	5	4	■	3	1	7	■
1	■	5	8	2	■	4	7
■	3	7	■	5	2	1	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3242



SOLUTION TO 3241

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3778

■				6			4	■
	■	8					■	
2		■		5		■	1	
			■		6			
			4	■		6	2	
		2	■		■			4
		■	7		3	■		
6	1				9		5	
7				8		4		■

SOLUTION TO 3777

8	2	1	9	5	6	3	7	4
9	3	6	1	4	7	5	8	2
4	5	7	2	3	8	6	1	9
1	4	5	6	8	3	9	2	7
2	7	8	4	9	5	1	3	6
3	6	9	7	1	2	8	4	5
7	8	2	5	6	1	4	9	3
6	1	4	3	7	9	2	5	8
5	9	3	8	2	4	7	6	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DECCAN HERALD
Saturday
December 27, 2025

common uad structure, ls states

instead of "Need to Know", he said central agencies and state police have developed good use of technology.

He said the common ATS structure and operational uniformity give the country an advantage in prosecuting terrorists.

He said it would be better if all data can communicate with each other and are created using the same technology. He directed the officials of the Ministry, NIA and Intelligence Bureau to deliberate on developing a seamless national-level framework for technology and data.

Noting that the landscape of terrorism is now changing due to the use of technology, he said active participation in the Multi Agency Centre and the National Memory Bank should be ensured.

He also said they should move forward with trial-in-absentia without fear of the controversies associated with it. This will force fugitives to return to the country.

Malaysia: Ex-PM Najib sentenced to 15 years on graft charges

PUTRAJAYA, AFP: A Malaysian judge sentenced former prime minister Najib Razak to 15 more years in jail on Friday after convicting him of abuse of power and money laundering in a sovereign wealth fund graft scandal.

Najib Razak

Najib was also fined $2.8 billion for his role in the plunder of billions from the now-defunct 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) more than a decade ago.

He is already serving a six-year term after being convicted in a separate 1MDB case, and Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah said Najib's latest term would begin only after that sentence was completed.

Sequerah convicted the 72-year-old former leader on all four counts of abuse of power as well as all 21 counts of money laundering, involving around $554 million from the fund. Najib, dressed in a navy blue suit and white shirt, was seen looking down, slumped in his seat as judge read verdict.

Putin open to territory swap with Kyiv: Report

Briefs top bizmen on plan details at Kremlin meeting: Russian daily

MOSCOW, REUTERS

President Vladimir Putin told some of Russia's top businessmen that he might be open to swapping some territory controlled by Russian forces in Ukraine but that he wanted the whole of Donbas, the Kommersant newspaper reported.

Andrei Kolesnikov, the Kremlin correspondent for Kommersant, one of Russia's top newspapers, said that Putin briefed top businessmen on details of the plan at a late-night Kremlin meeting on December 24. "Vladimir Putin asserted that the Russian side is still ready to make the concessions that he made in Anchorage. In other words, that 'Donbas is ours,'" Kommersant reported.

In essence, Putin wants the whole of Donbas but outside that area "a partial exchange of territories from the Russian side is not ruled out," Kolesnikov wrote in the newspaper.

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. REUTERS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, in remarks to reporters released by his office on Wednesday, said Ukrainian and US delegations had inched closer to finalising a 20-point plan at the talks over the weekend in Miami.

But Zelenskyy said Ukraine and the United States had not found common ground on demands that Ukraine cede the parts of Donbas that it still controls - or on the future of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant which is controlled by Russian forces.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly promised to end the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War Two and his envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner have been negotiating with Russia, Ukraine and European powers.

The full detail of US proposals has not been disclosed, though Russian officials have repeatedly referred to unspecified "understandings" reached between Putin and Trump at a summit in Anchorage, Alaska, in August.

Zelenskyy to meet Trump tomorrow

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday that he would meet US President Donald Trump this weekend to discuss efforts to end Russia's invasion, reports AFP. "Over the weekend, I think on Sunday, in Florida, we will have a meeting with President Trump," Zelenskyy said.

US says it struck IS militants in northwest Nigeria

Abuja signals more strikes against jihadist groups

WASHINGTON, AFP

The United States on Friday confirmed that its strikes against jihadist groups in northern Nigeria were launched with the West African country's approval.

"The Department of War worked with the government of Nigeria to carry out these strikes. These strikes were approved by the government of Nigeria," a Pentagon official said on condition of anonymity, without saying if Nigeria's military had been involved.

Nigeria on Friday signalled that more strikes against jihadist groups were expected after a Christmas Day bombardment by US forces against militants in the north of the country, which it said was a joint operation with its military.

The west African country faces multiple interlinked security crises, with jihadists waging an insurgency in the northeast since 2009 and armed "bandit" gangs raiding villages and staging kidnappings in the northwest.

The strikes came after Abuja and Washington were locked in a diplomatic dispute over what US President Donald Trump has characterised as the mass killing of Christians amid Nigeria's myriad armed conflicts.

A Pentagon official told AFP that "the Department of War worked with the government of Nigeria to carry out these strikes" and that they "were approved by the government of Nigeria", without saying whether Nigeria's military had been involved.

US defence officials later posted a video of what appeared to be a nighttime missile launch from the deck of a battleship flying the US flag.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's military said in a statement that its forces, "in conjunction with the United States", had conducted "precision strike operations".

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (R) greeting UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his arrival for a bilateral meeting in Islamabad. AFP

UAE prez arrives in Pak on maiden official visit

ISLAMABAD, PTI: President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, arrived here on Friday on his first official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Al Nahyan, who is on a day-long visit, was received at the Nur Khan airbase by Prime Minister Shehbaz. He had earlier visited Pakistan on a private trip in January this year.

The Pakistan Air Force jets presented a ceremonial aerial salute and escorted Al Nahyan's plane as it entered Pakistani airspace.

u helium r blast: 2 ccumb to l rises to 3

doesn't take chances with such incidents and will gather information from the city police since Mysuru is a major tourist destination. The city police are providing all the information," he said.

Mahadevappa visited K R Hospital with Mysuru DC G Lakshmikanth Reddy and police commissioner Seema Latkar on Friday and said the government will bear their medical expenses.

Shahina Shaber (54) from Kolkata, who is injured in her right leg and thigh, Kotresh Beerappa Gutter from Renebennur who is injured in his legs and left hand, his cousin Vedashree who sustained a minor injury in her head are being treated at K R hospital. Lakshmi's sister-in-law Ranjitha Vinod (30), who is injured in her neck, is being treated at a private hospital.

Devaraja police have filed an FIR against Saleem based on the complaint by Kotresh.

It is said that there were five people with Saleem.

Mysore-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar and Nanjangud MLA Darshan Dhruvanarayana also visited the injured.

Indian student shot dead near Toronto campus

TORONTO, PTI: A 20-year-old Indian doctoral student has been shot dead near the University of Toronto Scarborough campus in Canada, with authorities probing the case as a homicide, officials said.

The shooting took place on Tuesday, and the Toronto police on Wednesday identified the victim as Shivank Avasthi, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Police were called to the area of Highland Creek Trail and Old Kingston Road at about 3:30 pm on Tuesday for a report of an injured person lying on the ground, Duty. Inspector Jeff Allington said.

A person walking through the woods in the area discovered the victim on a paved trail and called 911, Allington said. When officers arrived, they found a person with a gunshot wound. That person was pronounced dead at the scene. "Our immediate focus is on preserving evidence at scene, determining what happened and notifying this individual's next of kin," Allington said.

Protesters block key Dhaka junction over Hadi's killing

DHAKA/NEW DELHI, PTI

Bangladesh's slain radical leader Sharif Osman Hadi's party activists on Friday blocked one of Dhaka's busiest intersections, demanding justice for his killing, disrupting traffic in the capital for several hours.

After Friday prayers, leaders and supporters of Inqilab Moncho and July Moncho, joined by students and members of the public, brought out a protest procession from the Dhaka University Central Mosque and marched towards Shahbagh, where they staged a sit-in demonstration, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

Md Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said the agitators began blocking the intersection at around 2:30 pm local time and traffic has remained suspended since then.

The protesters blocked the main roads at Shahbagh, bringing vehicular movement in the area to a complete halt.

Addressing the demonstrators, Inqilab Moncho Member Secretary Abdullah Al Jaber said the group would continue the blockade until justice was ensured for Hadi's killing, adding that protesters were prepared to stay overnight at the site if necessary.

"From today, we declare this Shahbagh as 'Shaheed Osman Hadi Chattar'. Our movement will not leave the streets until justice is ensured for Hadi's killing," Al Jaber was quoted as saying by The Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

Shahbagh is a strategic junction connecting several key parts of Dhaka, and blockades there often cause widespread traffic congestion across the city.

UK's 1st female Asian lord mayor Manjula Sood dies

LONDON, PTI: Manjula Sood, credited with many firsts as one of the UK's prominent Indian-origin female politicians from the city of Leicester, has died aged 80.

Sood served as one of the UK's first female lord mayors of Leicester and received an MBE, or Member of British Empire, honour from the late Queen Elizabeth II for community work in the eastern England city.

China sanctions 20 US firms over Trump's Taiwan arms sales

BEIJING, PTI: China on Friday imposed sanctions on 20 US defence firms in response to the Trump administration's approval of a record USD 11.1 billion arms sales package to Taiwan.

The Foreign Ministry in a statement warned that any attempt to provoke China on the Taiwan issue would be met with a firm response.

In response to the US announcement of large-scale arms sales to what it described as "China's Taiwan region", the ministry said Beijing has decided to take countermeasures against 20 American military-related firms and 10 senior executives who have been involved in arming Taiwan in recent years.

"The Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-US relations. Anyone who attempts to cross the line and make provocations on the Taiwan question will be met with China's firm response," it said. It urged the US to abide by the one-China principle.

w fetching Rs 21L pay

He is of the view that though this segment may grow over time, double-digit packages will continue to be the exception rather than the norm for fresh graduates.

TeamLease Digital's Digital Skills & Salary Primer shows that freshers with job-ready AI, cloud, or data skills are earning an average starting salary of Rs 7.5-9 LPA, compared with Rs 3.5-5 LPA for standard IT roles.

"Large IT firms may have elite fresher tracks ranging from Rs 7.5 LPA to Rs 21 LPA, but industry data indicates over 80% of IT services freshers still earn below Rs 6 LPA , highlighting how selective this premium hiring remains," TeamLease Digital CEO Neeti Sharma told *DH*.

Only 5-7% of freshers qualify

Sharma said that out of 10,000 freshers entering the job market, only a small fraction secure double-digit packages. Based on current hiring patterns, roughly 5-7% qualify for Rs 10 LPA-plus offers, typically in AI, data, cloud, or product engineering roles hired through competitive specialist tracks. Another 10-15% fall into the Rs 7-10 LPA range. The remaining 75-80% still enter traditional IT or digital roles at Rs 4-6 LPA, reflecting the overall distribution of job-ready digital skills, she added.

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

1) CB_MAH_JEETO YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA09AA8876
2) CB_Escorts JCB 3DX Excavator Loader YOM – - Reg No – KA16P7553
3) CB_AL_BADA_DOST YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA18D0701
4) CB_MAHINDRA_BOLERO _MAXXCITY_PICKUP YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA17AA8786
5) CB_BOLERO PIK UP all Varients YOM – - Reg No – KA02AK0631
6) AL_DOST_GOODS YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA53AV6137
7) CB_AL_BADA_DOST YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA17AA5705
8) AL_DOST_GOODS YOM – - Reg No – KA17AB0352
9) CB_Ashok Leyland Dost GOODS YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA06AC2648
10) CB_AL_BADA_DOST YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA41AA0308
11) CB_Ashok Leyland Dost GOODS YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA41D5839
12) CB_AL_BADA_DOST YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA11C4897

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION i.e. from 27.12.2025

(Please note that closing Auction date would not be a Weekly off / Holiday)

BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.,
22, MG ROAD, BANGALORE
KARNATAKA – 560001
OR
Contact: Arunlaxman Kokare
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Contact / 080 - 61564249

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-3/Tender Notification/2025-26/6240 Date:24.12.2025

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the Works Under KKRDB (CDQ) for the year 2025-26 Work for indent No 29928, 29930, 29382, 29934, 29145, 30541, 29724, 29974, 31156, 2) Estimate cost: **Min Rs. 140.00 Lakhs Max Rs. 750.00 Lakhs,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class III and above PWD Registered contractor, 4) EMD Amount: Min Rs 2,00,000.00 and Max. Rs 9,45,000.00, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting: **13.01.2026 (11.00 Hrs)**, 6) Last date for quries: **14.01.2026 (17.30 Hrs)**, 7) Last date for Submission of bid: **15.01.2026 (16.00 Hrs)**, 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid : **16.01.2026 (16.30 Hrs)**, 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **19.01.2026 (16.30 Hrs),** 10) Enquiries: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) Note: GST Will be Paid Separately, 12) Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, 13) Bidders Should Note That : **Note:** 1)Undersigned reserved the right to Cancel / Postpone/ Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/897/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer,PRE Division
Jawahar Road Koppal 583231 ,Karnataka . Email: eepredkpl@gmail.com,

No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2025-26 /2430 Date: 24.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through Standard Bid Document KW-1,2,3 & 4, under head of account 2024-25KKRDB & Other heads in different talukas of Koppal district . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.

General instructions:- 1.Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2).Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3)3.Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal. For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.This notified works can be downloaded in http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal from dated 15.12.2025

1)Supplying of Almarah and Steel Racks to GHPS School Bandiharalapur Ginigera Kavaloor Kunikeri Tanda Kunikeri DDPI Kavaloor GHPS Hosagondabal Basapur B Hydernagar Hosakanakapur Total 11 Schools Per 6 Childerns 1 Alamarah and Per 3 Childrens One Steel Rack in Koppal District. IND NO:12602 . KPL2424211312. APT-Rs. 88.60LAKHS EMD: 177500.00.- period-6months

2)PROVIDING AND FIXING OF STREET LIGHT IN SC COLONY AT SHYADALAGERA KANADAKUR BACHANAL HABALAKATTI PURA LINGADALLI YALABUNACHI MALAGITTI KESUR KABBARAGI VILLAGE IIN KUSHTAGI TALUKA. KPL2421221607 IND NO:18783 APT RS..176.00 LAKHS EMD- RS.264000.00. period-6months

3)PROVIDING AND FIXING OF STREET LIGHT IN SC COLONY AT GOTAGI TALAVAGERA HULASAGERA KYADIGUPPA PATTALACHINTI HAGALDAL HONAGADDI MALAKAPUR KADUR KUMBALAVATHI VILLAGE IIN KUSHTAGI TALUKA. KPL2421221608 IND NO:18781 APT RS .172.99 LAKHS EMD RS.259500.00. period-6months

4)PROVIDING AND FIXING OF STREET LIGHT IN ST COLONY AT KANNAL METTINAL HADAGALI HIREMUKRATINAL IDLAPUR VIRUPAPUR BISANAL CHIKKANANDIHAL HANUMAGERA NEERALAKOPPA G GANGANAL GOREBIHAL VILLAGE IIN KUSHTAGI TALUKA KPL2421222609 IND NO:18782 APT RS..201.11 LAKHS EMD RS.302000.00. period-6months

Tender Processing Fees As per E-Procurement Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal From **26.12.2025** time after 10.00 AM upto **15.01.2026** time 16.00 Hours. Tender Receipt last dates From **26.12.2025**,time 11.00 AM upto **15.01.2026** Time 16.30 hrs Technical Bid open date and time(Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 Works 16.01.2026 in office hours. Financial Bid open date and time For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened

Note: The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons .

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PRE Division Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/565/KSMCA-2025-26

KARNATAKA NIRAVRI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the, Executive Engineer
KNNL,No.5 Canal Division, Yermarus Camp. Tq:Dist:Raichur.

No:EE-5/T.S-1,2 & 3/Tender/MPS/2025-26/1249,1250,1251, Date: 23.12.2025, 989 Date:21.10.2025 & 1130 Date:29.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only Through e-procurement)

The percentage tenders through e-procurement platform in Two cover system (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) are invited by the Executive Engineer, No.5 Canal Division Yermarus Camp from contractors Registered/Firm/Company having enrolled in Labour Department for the work of supply of man power for water management of TLBC canal and camps .The technical bid shall be opened first and the financial bid of contractors who will qualify in the technical bid shall only be opened. The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in Total no of works: 04 Nos. Amount put to tender (Indent.No KNNL/2025-26/SE0172/CALL-3) Rs.87.56 Lakhs,(Indent.No KNNL/2025-26/SE0365) Rs.92.27 Lakhs (Indent.No.KNNL/2025-26/SE0331) Rs.9.00 Lakhs, (KNNL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT2194/CALL3) Rs.25.34 Lakhs & KNNL/2025-26/AUCTION95 Rs.0.55 Last date of submission of completed tender documents through e-procurement is up to date:05.01.2026, 08.01.2026, 12.01.2026 & 13.01.2026 upto 4.30 PM. All other details such as name of work, technical qualifying conditions, amount put to tender, EMD and other terms and conditions shall be obtained through website, www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in or in the office of the undersigned during office hours

Corrigendum / Addendum, if any shall be published in (www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in) only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL, No.5 Canal Division Yermarus Camp

DIP/RCR/620/KSMCA/622/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	South East-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3463/2025-26 Dated: 26.12.2025 INDENT No.2907 (Call-2)	₹ 49,63,211/- / ₹ 99,270/-	02.01.2026 upto 4:00 pm	03.01.2026 after 4:30 pm
2.		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3463/2025-26 Dated: 26.12.2025 INDENT No.2949 (Call-2) (Reserved for Category-2A)	₹ 14,53,482/- / ₹ 18,169/-		
3.		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3463/2025-26 Dated: 26.12.2025 INDENT No.2941 (Call-2) (Reserved for Category-2A)	₹ 38,34,129/- / ₹ 38,341/-		
4.		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3463/2025-26 Dated: 26.12.2025 INDENT No.2932 (Call-2) (Reserved for Category-1)	₹ 32,10,725/- / ₹ 32,110/-		
5.		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3463/2025-26 Dated: 26.12.2025 INDENT No.2958 (Call-2) (Reserved for ST Category)	₹ 47,95,713/- / ₹ 47,960/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3463/2025-26 Dated: 26.12.2025 INDENT No.2969 (Call-2)	₹ 7,50,081/- / ₹ 18,760/-		
7.		BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3463/2025-26 Dated: 26.12.2025 INDENT No.2971 (Call-2) (Reserved for SC Category)	₹ 2,97,782/- / ₹ 3,730/-		

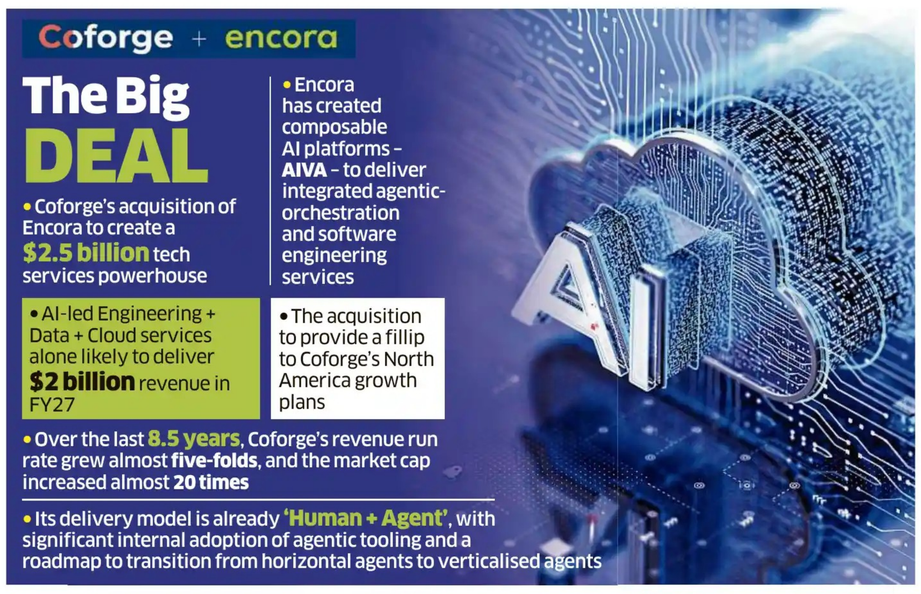
Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East-1)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/4687/CCL/2025-26

Coforge to acquire US-based AI firm Encora for $2.35 billion

Funded through preferential allotment of equity shares


Coforge + encora
The Big DEAL
• Coforge's acquisition of Encora to create a $2.5 billion tech services powerhouse
• Encora has created composable AI platforms – AIVA – to deliver integrated agentic-orchestration and software engineering services
• AI-led Engineering + Data + Cloud services alone likely to deliver $2 billion revenue in FY27
• The acquisition to provide a fillip to Coforge's North America growth plans
• Over the last 8.5 years, Coforge's revenue run rate grew almost five-folds, and the market cap increased almost 20 times
• Its delivery model is already 'Human + Agent', with significant internal adoption of agentic tooling and a roadmap to transition from horizontal agents to verticalised agents
AI

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tech services and solutions provider Coforge will acquire Silicon Valley-based AI-native firm Encora for an enterprise value of about Rs 21,100 crore ($2.35 billion).

The transaction will be funded through a preferential allotment of equity shares representing an equity value of approximately $1.89 billion, pursuant to which Encora shareholders will hold approximately 20% of the expanded share capital of Coforge upon completion of the transaction, the Noida-headquartered company said on Friday.

Encora is founded with an AI-native DNA, providing engineering services to Fortune 1000 enterprises and digital-native companies. The firm operates at the convergence of AI, cloud and data, with capabilities spanning intelligent process design, agent-native product engineering, core modernisation, AI foundation, data readiness, and AIOps, Coforge said. It will acquire the business from Advent, Warburg Pincus, and other minority shareholders.

Encora has built composable agentic AI platforms — AIVATM, and has deep partnerships with AWS, Microsoft, Google and Snowflake. This acquisition of Encora will create a $2.5 billion tech services powerhouse, wherein AI-led Engineering + Data + Cloud services alone are likely to deliver $2 billion revenue in FY27. AI-led product engineering business is likely to be a $1.25 billion business, cloud service is a $500 million business, and data engineering is about a $250 million+ business for the firm.

Coforge also announced that its Hi-Tech and Healthcare industry verticals are expected to reach material scale immediately, post-acquisition. They will both individually operate at an annualised $170 million+ revenue run rate.

The acquisition will reposition Coforge as a player with scaled near-shore delivery capability in LATAM, with an engineering and AI talent-base of over 3,100 SMEs servicing US clients. It will significantly expand the West and Midwest US client footprint of Coforge, which, pre-acquisition, contributed only 25% to its US Geo revenues. The combined firm will have 45 $10 million+, highly-scalable relationships. The combined business is expected to operate at an EBIT margin of 14%, and the acquisition is expected to be EPS accretive in FY27.

"The new $2.5 billion firm, with a $2 billion enterprise core of AI-led engineering, data and cloud services, will set the benchmark on making the promise of AI real for enterprises. With this augmented enterprise AI-led engineering core, we believe that our growth will get further accelerated and move to an even higher orbit," said Coforge CEO and ED Sudhir Singh.

ECO DAMAGE

Dutch NGO seeks $1.6 billion from Tata Steel

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A Dutch non-profit organisation Stichting Frisse Wind.nu (SFW) has sent a legal notice to Tata Steel's unit seeking $1.6 billion (Rs 14,810 crore) compensation for alleged environmental harm and health damages caused to people in the Netherlands due to hazardous emissions.

The NGO has filed a writ petition against Tata Steel's two subsidiaries, Tata Steel Nederland BV and Tata Steel IJmuiden BV, in the District Court North Holland, Tata Steel said in a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges on Friday. The legal notice was served on December 19.

"SFW seeks approximately EUR 1.4 billion in compensation on account of increased susceptibility to various health issues and the loss of enjoyment of homes, as the average home value in the region demonstrably lags behind that of comparable regions," Tata Steel said in filing to the BSE.

The proceedings initiated by the NGO concern a collective action under the Dutch Act on Collective Settlement of Mass Claims. In this action, SFW states that it is acting on behalf of residents living in the vicinity of Tata Steel IJmuiden BV. The proceedings pertain to allegations by SFW, holding Tata Steel IJmuiden BV liable for alleged damages caused by the company's operations in Velsen-Noord (including, most importantly, emissions of hazardous and/or harmful substances).

The Tata Steel share price fell 0.50% to Rs 169.15 apiece. It slumped to a low of Rs 167.85 in the intra-day. Tata Steel was among the top losers on the Nifty 50 index.

Scrutiny has mounted over Tata Steel's European operation in the recent year. Last year, Dutch regulators threatened EUR 27 million fines for toxic emissions. The NGO's lawsuit is perhaps the biggest damage claim against the company for environmental harms.

According to Tata Steel Nederland BV and Tata Steel IJmuiden BV (collectively referred to as TSN), the NGO has provided no supporting evidence for the claim, making it unsubstantiated and speculative. TSN rejects their claims as being "without any basis".

However, Tata Steel noted in its regulatory filing that the "Company was examining the documents provided by SFW, was in discussion with counsels and assessing the potential implications of the claim".

It claimed that "TSN is committed and will continue to focus on environmental preservation and addressing community concerns through collaboration with the Government and other stakeholders towards a sustainable future for all stakeholders".

Silver soars to record Rs 2.36 L/kg

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver prices soared by Rs 9,350 to hit a fresh lifetime high of Rs 2,36,350 per kg in the national capital on Friday, tracking strong global cues, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The white metal had closed at Rs 2,27,000 per kg on Wednesday. Over the past four sessions, silver prices have added Rs 32,250, or 15.8%, from Rs 2,04,100 per kg since December 19.

During the calendar year, the white metal had risen Rs 1,46,650, or 163.5%, from Rs 89,700 per kg recorded on December 31, 2024.

Meanwhile, gold prices maintained their upward momentum in the local bullion market. The precious metal of 99.9% purity jumped Rs 1,500 to touch a new record of Rs 1,42,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

It had finished at Rs 1,40,800 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Spot silver rose to hit $75 per ounce-mark for the first time in the overseas trade. The white metal climbed $3.72, or 5.18%, to touch a new record of $75.63 per ounce in overseas trade.

IndiGo faces Rs 13 L penalty related to GST

NEW DELHI, PTI: IndiGo has been slapped with a penalty of little over Rs 13 lakh in relation to the GST, and the company will contest the ruling.

The Office of the Assistant Commissioner of State Tax, Excise and Taxation Department, Punjab, has imposed the penalty of Rs 13,28,255 pertaining to FY2021-22.

"The department has raised GST demand along with penalty. The company believes that the order passed by the authorities is erroneous. Further, the company believes that it has a strong case on merits, backed by advice from external tax advisors. "Accordingly, the company will contest the same before the appropriate authority," InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, said in a regulatory filing on Thursday.

It also said there was no significant impact on financials, operations or other activities of the company.

2026 OUTLOOK

Realty sector set for premium, luxury housing boom

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The real estate industry is set to witness strong end-user demand in 2026. The sector is shifting from opportunistic growth to institutional discipline, with data integrity, design innovation, and capital-market maturity emerging as the new competitive edge. Premium and luxury housing segments will continue to outpace affordable housing, now contributing over 50% of sales value in top metros.

"Higher-income buyers are prioritising lifestyle upgrades and remain less sensitive to cycles. Supply-constrained micro-markets like Whitefield and ORR in Bengaluru, Gurgaon Golf Course Road, and West Hyderabad are expected to hold pricing power," said Sunil Pareek, Executive Director, Assetz.

He said the GCC ecosystem — now ~540 centres in Bengaluru — is becoming a meaningful home-buying force. Salary growth of 12-18% among mid-senior professionals is driving upgrades, second homes, and investment-led purchases. This creates a steady, resilient demand base.

Listed residential players have delivered 25-40% CAGR in pre-sales since FY21, signalling sustained investor confidence. 2026-27 is likely to see residential IPOs as platforms institutionalise governance, build scale and systems. The residential sector is slowly building a distinct capital-market identity, independent of commercial REIT structures.

Less than 20% of developers today have active tech architectures. In 2026, AI-led planning, digital twins, automated MIS, and CRM/cashflow engines will start moving towards enterprise core systems. PropTech investment has grown 5x since 2020; hence, 2026 will see its consolidation into credible enterprise platforms, Pareek said.

Ashish Puravankara, MD, Puravankara Limited, said, "As we look ahead to 2026, three signals stand out clearly. First, growth will be led by discerning customers who prioritise product quality, readiness, and trust in the developer. Second, capital deployment — both domestic and global — will become sharper and more selective, favouring developers with strong governance and disciplined balance sheets. And third, technology and sustainability will increasingly shape how we plan, build, and deliver. ESG adoption, modular construction, and digital tools are no longer optional; they are central to future-proofing the industry."

According to Murali Malayappan, Chairman & Managing Director, Shriram Properties Limited, 2025 marked a decisive shift in homebuyer preference towards large, trusted developers, further accelerating consolidation in the real estate sector.

"Looking ahead, 2026 is poised for accelerated growth, driven by operational efficiency, digital integration, and strengthening demand, especially in the Southern markets. Sustainability will become a mandatory market standard, with wider adoption of green building practices," he said.

Pavitra Shankar, MD, Brigade Enterprises Limited, added, "In 2025, the real estate sector in our country demonstrated remarkable stability and depth, strengthened by institutional investments of around $5-7 billion. All segments (residential, commercial, hospitality) anchored this growth, reflecting sustained investor confidence and the ability of the sector to adapt to changing market dynamics, regulatory reforms, and improving infrastructure landscapes."

Urban renewal, high-quality residential developments, and more technology-driven construction models will shape the next leg of progress in 2026. Furthermore, demand for Grade-A office spaces will continue to be resilient, whether in the traditional leasing or flex space model, reaffirming India's position as a global business hub despite uncertainty on tariffs, she said.

"We will also see an increase in demand for premium residences and Grade-A office spaces in Tier-2 cities like Mysuru, Coimbatore, Kochi, Vijayawada, etc," she added.

ಶ್ರೀ ಜಯದೇವ ಹೃದ್ರೋಗ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ – ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಎನ್.ಎ.ಬಿ.ಹೆಚ್. ನಿಂದ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ಬನ್ನೇರುಘಟ್ಟ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 069
SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka Regd. Autonomous & NABH Accredited Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560 069. Ph.: 080 22977278 Fax No.: 080 22977278
E-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com Website: www.jayadevacardiology.com
Ref. No. SJICR/EST(1)/126/2025-26 Date: 26.12.2025
CORRIGENDUM
In the Notification No. SJICR/EST(1)/126/2025-26, Dated: 10.12.2025 for the Walk-in-Interview published in the News paper on 11.12.2025, the Walk-in-Interview scheduled on 29.12.2025 stands postponed. Further date will be intimated later.
Sd/-,
DIRECTOR

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga
Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga
Phone: 08182-222382 e-mail ID: dhoshimoga@gmail.com
No.: DHFWOS/SUPPLY/03/2025-26 Date: 24.12.2025
e-Tender Notice
E-tenders are invited (two-cover system) for the procurement of medical equipment for the subordinate health institutions of the District Health and Family Welfare Department, Shivamogga District, in accordance with the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in). Interested tenderers are requested to participate.
Notification No.: DHFWOS/SUPPLY/03/2025-26 Tender Details: Medical Equipment for Subordinate Health Institutions of Shivamogga District Tender Duration: 24-12-2025 to 22-01-2026 Tender Amount: Rs. 53.00 Lakhs EMD Amount: Rs. 1,32,500.00
For further details, the same may be obtained from the office of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga, during office hours or from the website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer,Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/No.ksmca/25-26/151/12/1474

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga Ph: 08182-222943
Email ID: spdivision@gmail.com
Short-term Tender Notification (Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal)
IFT No. 36/2025-26 Date: 24.12.2025
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintenance Work of Repairs to Road from SH-65 via Umblebailu, kaidottalu, Siddamaji hosuru, Lingapura connecting SH-65 from 4.00 to 6.00 km in Shiivamogga Taluk (PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30718) for Amount put to tender is. **Rs. 126.98 Lakhs**, EMD amount is **Rs.1.905 lakhs** Time allowed for completion of work is 04 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP-portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP-Portal from **24-12-2025 to 02-01-2026** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **02-01-2026 at 17.00 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on **03-01-2026 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **04-01-2026** Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/SMG/No-134-12/zenkar/2025-26

Don't Miss Tomorrow's DH on Sunday
DECCAN HERALD
BIG PICTURE — 2025: The year that language changed us.
BOOKS — The best of 2025's fiction and nonfiction.
WELLNESS — Get rid of that tech neck!
FOOD & DRINK — Dig into all the F&B trends of the year.
TRAVEL — The places to head to in 2026.
GENDER — Why is DEI seen as woke?
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ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಸ್ತ್ರೀಶಕ್ತಿ ಭವನ, ಕೃಷ್ಣದೇವರಾಯ ವೃತ್ತ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ 2ನೇ ಹಂತ, ಮೈಸೂರು–17.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:0821–2495432/2498031
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : ddwcdmysore@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಉನಿಮೈ/ಐಸಿಡಿಎಸ್/ಪೋ.ಸ.ಶು.ಶೇ.ಸೌ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ :24.12.2025
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಉನ್ನತೀಕರಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 1500 ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಶುದ್ಧ ಶೇಖರಣಾ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಶೇಖರಣಾ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ನಿಯಮ–1999 ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಹ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.12.2025 ರಿಂದ 08.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ : 5.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಸ್ತ್ರೀಶಕ್ತಿ ಭವನ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕೃಷ್ಣದೇವರಾಯ ವೃತ್ತ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ, 2ನೇ ಹಂತ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ :https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಿರೂಪಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
DIPR/DDMYS/1360/KSMCA/814/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (M.P.P & C.S)
Old Madras Road, K R Pura Zone-02,
Bengaluru - 560 036
No:BECC/K.R.PU.Z-02/EE/P.R/04/2025-26 Date: 26-12-2025
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
Subject: Regarding postponement of e-Auction short term tender calender of events for Toll collection of pay daily and weekly fair in K R Pura Santhemaidana.
Reference: Office of the Executive Engineer (Project) Short Term Notification No:BECC/K.R.PU.Z-02/EE(P)/PR/04/2025-26 Date:19-12-2025
With reference to the above subject, the e-Auction short term tender notification as per reference was published for the work of toll collection of pay daily & weekly fair in K R Pura Santhemaidana. Due to technical reasons, the calender of events of the tender is postponed as mentioned below.
Postponed date & Time: 1) The registration date for participation in e-auction is from **29-12-2025** to **05-01-2026**. 2) Pre-bid meeting for e-auction **02-01-2026** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer (M.P.P & C.S) 3) Commencement of e-auction for online bidding **06-01-2026** at **11:00** am. 4) Last date for concluding e-auction **06-01-2026** at **5:00** pm.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (M.P.P & C.S)
Bengaluru East City Corporation,
K. R. Puram Zone-02

C'dur consig four

Bus driver s injuries, toll

CHITRADURGA/
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The preliminary investigation into the Chitradurga bus inferno has found major safety violations. A large consignment of oil boxes in the luggage box is suspected to have intensified the blaze, killing six passengers on the spot.

The Gokarna-bound private bus caught fire 10 minutes after the container truck crashed into the diesel tank of the bus. But the large consignment of oil boxes found in the luggage is believed to have intensified fire and gave a torrid time for the Fire and Emergency Service personnel in dousing the flames.

Murder interi bail to B

BJP MLA moved HC after spl court rejected advance bail plea on Dec 23

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a relief to BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, the High Court of Karnataka on Friday granted him conditional interim anticipatory bail in the Bikla Shivu murder case.

Vacation bench Justice G Basavaraja passed this order after hearing senior advocate Sandesh Chouta, appearing for Basavaraj.

Shivaprakash alia Bikla Shivu, a history-sheeter, was murdered on July 15, 2025, in Bharathinagar police station limits, Bengaluru.

The probe was subsequently transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and the stringent KCOCA was invoked on August 12 against those named in the case. The MLA was named in the FIR.

Murmu to underta

KARWAR, DHNS: President Droupadi Murmu will visit the Kadamba Naval base here to undertake a sea sortie aboard a submarine on Sunday.

In view of the President's visit to Karwar, the deputy commissioner of Uttara

Asphalt

BENGALURU, DHNS

Panic gripped commuters on the Sumanahalli flyover in southwestern Bengaluru on Wednesday night after a drunk SUV driver rammed into a motorcycle and dragged the two-wheeler for nearly half a kilometre, with sparks flying from the asphalt.

The driver, Srinivas K V (38), a wine shop owner from Kunigal, was allegedly driving his Hyundai Creta (KA 06 MC 8559) under the influence of alcohol.

According to police, the incident occurred around 7.15 pm when Srinivas, heading towards Sunkadakatte, rear-ended a Royal Enfield Bullet ridden by Rohit S near Sattva Apartment.

4,000 km in 14 days

Where we went
From Siliguri in West Bengal, we headed to the 15,300 ft Zero Point in Sikkim, near the China border. We then traversed the Silk Route, continued through Bhutan and Nepal, and looped back to Siliguri.

The women's motorcycle diaries

~~Five women embarked on a ride from~~ West Bengal to the China border in Sikkim. The expedition was as much ~~about adventure as about self-~~ discovery, they tell **Puja Goyal**

On September 28, Seema Warrier revved up her bike in Kozhikode and headed towards Bengaluru to meet Anitha Karshyap and Swapna Kumari Kaniti. From there, the three throttled north, riding together all the way to Siliguri in West Bengal. Sesharani Nagaraj flew from Bengaluru into Siliguri after despatching her motorcycle to that city on a train. She was accompanied by the oldest member of the group and the only pillion rider, 77-year-old Subhadra Prabhakaran. Subhadra lives in Hyderabad.

From Siliguri, on October 5, the group set out on what would become the longest and most demanding ride of their lives. They covered 4,000 km during the expedition. It was also their costliest ride, with expenses touching Rs 1 lakh per head.

Those 14 days on the road were marked by unpredictable weather, roads that disappeared under landslides, an accident that got an ambulance rushing to the scene, and an instance of gender discrimination. They woke at 4 am and hit the road by 5 am, stopping every 100 km or so. Riding ended by sunset, and by 10 pm, everyone was in bed.

Yet, as they look back now, the challenges have turned into fond memories. They caught fleeting glimpses of local monasteries, temples and bazaars. The expedition also proved that they could overcome conventional limits of age and gender. For instance, 43-year-old Swapna built her strength and flexibility through a disciplined mix of yoga, walking, and strength training.

SIKKIM

(From left) Anitha Karshyap, Seema Warrier, Subhadra Prabhakaran, Sesharani Nagaraj, and Swapna Kumari Kaniti.

BHUTAN

ON THE WAY TO ZERO POINT

NEPAL

Willpower

The expedition was organised under CRF Women on Wheels, an initiative of the Community Riders' Federation (CRF), based in Kozhikode. It was started in 2016 by Faii Fais, a riding instructor. He began teaching women to ride during a difficult phase in his life. "I was dealing with depression and looking for purpose. Teaching women to ride helped me heal," he says. The initiative, which is active in six cities in the south, including Bengaluru, has trained women between the ages of 18 and 70.

Initially, it organised short rides within cities, but later shifted gears by launching cross-country expeditions to some of the world's highest motorable mountain passes in Ladakh. The current expedition was Fais's idea, and was framed as a challenge for the group. He joined in, riding alongside Seema for a total of 10,000 km from Kerala.

Initial hesitation

Each member of the team found her way to biking differently. Though they all rode scooters, mounting a motorcycle felt like a big leap. It was heavier to handle, and long regarded as a male thing.

For Swapna, an IT professional and emotional healing coach based in Bengaluru, inspiration came at home. Her husband is a biker. "Why am I not trying this out?" she recalls wondering one day. With her husband's old Yamaha CT 100, she joined CRF last year. "I found it easier to ride with other women. Men ride fast, and it is difficult to keep up," she says. She began riding long distances only this March. "Highway riding is different from city riding. There are lorries, cattle, and low visibility in the evenings to deal with," she says.

Though 33-year-old Anitha has been riding for only four years, her love for bikes began in childhood. As a Class 4 student, she would listen, wide-eyed, to her biker neighbour's tales of road adventures. "I started with a secondhand Xpulse, a popular off-road bike. It was a bit tall, but lightweight enough for me to handle. Now I ride a Gorilla 450 Royal Enfield, a semi off-road bike perfect for mountain trails. It has the same engine as the Himalayan 450. Even though it is heavier (at around 180 kg), riding it is more comfortable, thanks to the lower seat," says the testing engineer. Today, riding is a passion for her, "an escape from the daily grind". At the slightest opportunity, she sets off on weeklong trips, exploring far-flung places like Meghalaya.

Seema, a special needs educator, had always admired bikes but never imagined she would ride one. "I would sit on bikes or take pictures whenever I saw them. I even joined a riding school, but nothing came of it," recalls the 53-year-old. During the Covid-19 lockdown, watching one of her friend's riding videos on social media rekindled her interest, and she discussed it with her husband. They faced resistance from some quarters, with people suggesting it would be wiser to invest in a car than a bike. But her husband stood firmly by her. They zeroed in on a Royal Enfield Meteor 350, which arrived just before her 49th birthday. She fondly calls it Pumpkin.

Subhadra is Seema's mother. She was initially hesitant about a long ride across changing terrains in uncertain weather conditions. "Seema took me on a short ride around Hyderabad, and I saw up close her love for biking. Then she simply asked, 'Amma, come on the expedition. I will take you as a pillion'. My husband encouraged me to go with her," she recalls.

At 31, Sesharani Nagaraj was the youngest in this intergenerational group. An IT professional in Bengaluru, her journey into motorcycling began by circumstance. She used to travel as a pillion with friends and family, but when the pandemic disrupted that routine and friends moved to other cities after getting married, she realised she needed to be independent.

She and her brother bought a bike. He encouraged her to learn, giving her the option to sell it if it did not work out. By then, she had obtained a driving licence and enrolled in riding classes.

Convincing families

Despite years of biking experience, the women confronted many concerns before the expedition.

"My husband and son were supportive, but my parents would say, 'You are already riding to the office. So why do you want to go on highways? It could be dangerous. And how will your son manage without you?'" recalls Swapna. Convincing them took time, and eventually, Nihal, her son, went to stay with his grandparents. "Parents will always worry, no matter how old you are," she says.

Anitha's family did not know about her biking escapades until she bought a new, expensive bike for the expedition. They argued that the money would have been better spent on her daughter's education. But they also came around. "My daughter stays mostly with my parents during holidays. That's how I find time for long rides," she says.

Sesharani's family was primarily worried for her safety. But once they learned about her training and the plan, they were fully on board with the idea.

On Subhadra's side, relatives voiced their scepticism, warning her "You shouldn't go. You will suffer." But Seema, her younger daughter, and her husband were steadfast in their support. "I have been practising yoga since 2000, and do pranayama and sudarshan kriya. I knew my health was fine," she explains.

Seema was fortunate to have the full support of her immediate family. Before this expedition, her bike, Pumpkin, had already woven through almost every state of India, except those in the north-east. "My first long ride was from Kozhikode to Coimbatore, with my husband as pillion. He does not ride anymore due to an injury. We once went to Goa and extended the ride to Mumbai, and we also completed the mini K2K circuit from Kasaragod to Kanyakumari. I did my first long solo ride from Thiruvananthapuram to Kozhikode," she recalls. During these trips, she had two falls that required surgeries, but they taught her to travel lighter and ride more mindfully.

Busting a common misconception, the team says male bikers are overwhelmingly supportive of female bikers. They have met men who stop to check on them or guide them through the route. They share tips on local food and swap notes on bike specs. "There's a real sense of solidarity in the biking community. Men see us as fellow riders, not just female riders," says Swapna.

No hotels for women

No plan is foolproof on offbeat trips, they quickly found out. They were off-roading right from the start of the expedition.

The 112 km stretch from Siliguri to Gangtok in Sikkim was slowed down by a landslide. What normally took four hours stretched to 11. "It was tedious. Seema and I even fell off the bike. After that, Fais took me pillion. I didn't get hurt. I actually enjoyed falling!" says Subhadra. In comparison, the group covered 500-600 km on smoother days.

Landslides and weather disruptions also blocked key routes into Nepal, forcing the group onto a muddy track carved by trucks. "On one side we had the mountain, on the other the river. The road was narrow, and vehicles passed on both sides," she recalls.

"The Nepal section tested my patience. It was almost 50 km of off-roading. I nearly gave up, but the group kept me motivated," says Swapna.

There were stretches when Anitha's bike ran out of petrol, and she had to borrow some from Swapna. One time, a glitch forced her to shift to first gear and carefully ease her way downhill. Fais's bike also suffered from overheating.

Travel demands flexibility — and they shortened their Bhutan leg by a day to save costs. "We had planned four days there, but permits for our bikes and ourselves for that period were coming to around Rs 24,000 per head," says Swapna.

However, their biggest shock came in Odisha, where at least three hotels refused them rooms because they were women. "This was around 11 pm. The first manager denied us rooms, even after we showed our IDs, explained that we were on a biking expedition, and said even two rooms would be enough," Anitha says. So they were forced to ride straight to Bhubaneswar. Anitha had another frightening moment in Odisha. She blacked out for 30 minutes after braking suddenly to avoid slamming into a dead cow. "When I woke up, there was an ambulance. I thought, why am I here? But the doctor said I was fine to continue riding," she recalls.

Food posed a challenge for Subhadra. She was not used to eating instant noodles but but had to make do with them and momos while on the road. "That was my first time tasting momos," she says.

Despite the hurdles, camaraderie carried them through. Seema says it helped them manage disagreements and navigate routes effectively. Anitha adds, "On the road, we only have each other. When I was tired, Swapna or Seema would encourage me to nap, or we would stop for coffee. Keeping our energy levels equal was important."

Ready for more

Despite the setbacks, there were innumerable moments of beauty and wonder.

On the way to Zero Point (a high-altitude Himalayan stretch in north Sikkim near the China border), tourists urged them to hurry, warning that rain could close the entry. "Fais encouraged us to keep going. As we reached, it started snowing. I always thought I would have to go to Kashmir to see snowfall, but here I was, experiencing my first snowfall. It was magical," recalls Swapna. Even Subhadra, who had seen snow in Japan and Russia, was enchanted by the white scenery. "There was fresh, fluffy snow everywhere. We played like children," she says. Sesharani gets poetic: "Travelling by car is like watching a movie, but on a bike, you become part of it, as one of its characters. Riding makes you one with the environment."

They turned even routine moments into memories. They chatted over their helmet-mounted Bluetooth systems, shared playlists, and checked if anyone was dozing off. "Sometimes we would start singing together while riding. I was the worst singer. My rendition of 'Chalte chalte mere yeh geet yaad rakhna' sure kept everyone wide awake," Swapna says, laughing.

Subhadra's presence drew curiosity wherever they went. "In Bhutan, we ran into tourists from Kerala. They were thrilled to see me and took pictures," she says. The septuagenarian's energy and discipline was inspiring. "Before we even opened our eyes, she was ready for the day — gear on, equipment packed. She handled zero-degree temperatures with ease," adds Sesharani.

The women have returned with a greater thirst for adventure. Some were on other biking trips already when we contacted them for this story last week. "Everyone needs to step outside their comfort zone and truly experience life," says Subhadra.

Like this story?
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MUSICANA

'Opera allows the voice to exist without filters'

Representation is important in classical music, Frazan Adil Kotwal tells
Swarna Srikanth

Mumbai-born opera singer Frazan Adil Kotwal is coming to India after performing on international stages across Europe. His debut recital carries particular weight for Kotwal, who sees the return as more than a homecoming — one rooted in identity and belonging. He is set to perform in Pune and Mumbai in January.

"Most of the time when I perform, I'm standing in front of a sea of faces that do not necessarily look like me. Knowing that this is an audience that can deeply connect to who I am makes this evening even more special and meaningful," says the artiste.

The concert is titled 'From dawn to dream'. It reflects on Kotwal's early days in India, when he would wake up at 4 am to practise, dreaming of becoming a singer one day. The singer will be accompanied by Nadine Jo Crasto, one of India's leading pianists.

Kotwal was fascinated by opera since his childhood. He was closely involved in his school's musical events and was a member of the choir. When he met renowned British opera singer and soprano Patricia Rozario, she encouraged him to pursue his interest. He then started with music projects for underprivileged children in Mumbai's slums, making art accessible. Later he moved to Germany for formal training in opera.

Frazan Adil Kotwal is set to perform in India in January.

"What drew me towards opera was the sheer emotional honesty of the human voice in this art form. Opera allows the voice to exist without filters or amplification, carrying raw emotion, drama, vulnerability, and power all at once," Kotwal shares.

One of the pieces he will perform is written by a Bengaluru-based writer, Nirmala Mathan, and is titled 'Beautiful Bombay'.

"It captures the city not just as a place, but as a living, breathing presence — complex, chaotic, compassionate, and deeply human," Kotwal explains.

Kotwal recalls that he did 23 concerts last December as the Christmas month is one of the busiest for opera singers. But this time, he's preparing himself for India.

He reveals that concert invitations did not come easily; he had to seek out stages himself and knock on doors before opportunities materialised. "Germany welcomed me wholeheartedly. There were cultural challenges, but ironically, the toughest phase was in India," he says.

But he believes that Indian audiences are interested in this music in a way Western audiences often cannot imagine. "When young people see another brown boy making this repertoire his own, that's when a real connection is formed. Representation matters, especially in classical music," Kotwal concludes.

THE LAST PAGE...

Tini Sara Anien narrates the story of a little girl, who learns the art of letting go and moving on

Neha was reading a book when she noticed the last page of the calendar fluttering slightly. She tugged at the bottom edge, the way her mother always did every month end, but the page stayed put, as though holding on to its last breath.

"That's strange," Neha muttered. The calendar hung beside her study table, filled with crooked pencil marks, circled dates, and tiny doodles she had drawn during her home tutoring classes and homework time. December 31 stared back at her in bold red letters. She tugged again.

"Please don't. Not yet!" a voice said softly. Neha froze.

The room was quiet. Her parents were in the living room, arguing about whether they had enough snacks for the midnight party. Outside, people were bursting firecrackers impatiently, practising for later.

"Who said that?" Neha whispered.

"I did. Up here," said the voice.

Neha looked up. The calendar page trembled slightly.

"You... spoke?" she said, her eyes wide.

"Yes," the page replied calmly. "I only do this once a year. On the last day."

Neha let go immediately, and said: "I'm sorry! I didn't mean to hurt you."

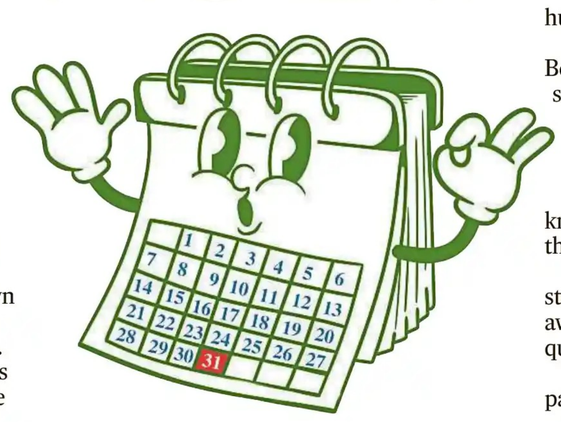
"You didn't. You were just doing what everyone does. Tearing me away," said the page.

Neha pulled her chair closer and sat down slowly, facing the calendar. "But calendars don't talk!" "They do. You don't listen, as always," the page said.

Neha thought about laughing, but something about the page's voice stopped her. It wasn't spooky; it sounded tired.

"Why today?" Neha asked.

"Because I'm almost done. And before I go, I like to check in," said the page.



"Check in?" Neha repeated.

The page replied: "Yes. With the children who lived with me." It added: "You used me every day. You crossed out dates, circled exams, and counted days till your birthday. You lived on me more than you realise."

Neha glanced at the page. She could see the small notes written in different inks. Across pages, it said: Maths test. School picnic cancelled. Grandma came home. A bad day. A very good day!!!

"I didn't know you remembered all that," Neha said.

"Oh, I remember everything. The day you cried in the bathroom because a teacher falsely blamed you for talking. The afternoon you laughed so hard milk came out of your nose. The evening you sat quietly because someone didn't talk to you at school," recalled the page.

"That was embarrassing...," Neha said in a hushed voice.

"Maybe, but they were all important days. Because those moments made you stronger," said the page.

The 10-year-old girl leaned back on a chair in the room. "I didn't like this year very much."

The page was quiet for a moment. "I know," it said finally. "You lost important things."

"My best friend moved away to another state and stopped calling. My pet dog ran away. And school was hard," Neha said quickly.

"I know... I was there for all of it," said the page.

Neha teared up. "Then why didn't you make it better?"

The page rustled softly, as if choosing its words carefully. "Because that wasn't my job. My job was to carry the days and not to fix them," it said.

Neha stared at the calendar. "And now... are you sad to go?" she asked.

"No. I'm tired. But I'm very proud of you," the page replied.

Neha blinked. "Of me?"

"Yes. You kept going. Even on days you wanted to hide under your bed, you showed up. You learned. You changed."

"I still feel the same," Neha said.

"Change is sneaky," said the page laughingly.

Outside her house, someone lit a long chain of firecrackers. The sound rattled the windows.

"What happens if I don't tear you?" Neha asked quietly.

The page's voice softened. "Then tomorrow won't come."

Neha's throat tightened as she said, "But I'm not ready."

"Most people aren't. That's why I need you to be brave," said the page.

Neha reached out, her fingers hovering near the edge. "Will I forget you?" she asked.

"No. I will live in you. Just like how you hesitate before giving up, how you are kinder to yourself, and how you understand someone else's bad day," said the page.

Neha nodded slowly. "Will the new year be better?" she asked.

The page smiled and said, "I don't know. But it will be new. And you will not be starting from zero."

From the living room, her mother called, "Neha! Two minutes to midnight. Come fast!"

Neha took a deep breath. "Thank you for everything," she said.

"For what?" the page asked.

"For carrying my good and bad days with me," Neha replied.

The page said peacefully: "Go on. I've done my part."

Neha held the page carefully and pulled. This time, it ripped off easily.

As she folded it and tucked it into her notebook, the clock struck twelve.

"Happy New Year!" her parents shouted.

Neha smiled. Tomorrow and a whole new year were waiting.

5 MOVIES
for fresh beginnings

They talk about new experiences, gratitude, and discovering one's inner self

Over the Moon

Directed by Glen Keane, the film follows Fei Fei, a spirited young girl who builds a rocket to the moon to prove the existence of a mythical Moon goddess. It features vibrant visuals and musical numbers, and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2021. The film's message of opening one's heart to new experiences and joy after grief makes it fitting for a new year.

Wish Dragon

Directed by Chris Appelhans, the 2021 film is about a kind-hearted teenager named Din, who comes across a wish-granting dragon which helps him reconnect with a childhood friend. Set against an urban Chinese backdrop, the film explores the difference between materialistic success and meaningful relationships. The film emphasises gratitude, second chances and choosing what truly matters.

A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon

Co-directed by Will Becher and Richard Phelan, the 2019 film offers a largely wordless adventure centred on Shaun's friendship with a mischievous alien who crash lands on Earth. The film won the BAFTA Award for Best Animated Film in 2020 and was also an Academy Award nominee. Its absence of dialogue, reliance on visual storytelling and focus on kindness and cooperation make it a calming film.

The Willoughbys

In this 2020 film, director Kris Pearn tells the story of four siblings, who neglected by their self-absorbed parents, set out to create a better family for themselves. The film redefines ideas of family and belonging, using a distinctive animation style and playful narration. Nominated for an Annie Award, the film underscores the belief that life can be reshaped for the better if you make an effort towards it.

My Father's Dragon

The 2022 film is adapted from Ruth Stiles Gannett's children's book with the same name. Directed by Nora Twomey, the plot follows young Elmer, who runs away from home and finds himself on a magical island where he must rescue a captive dragon. The film focuses on courage, empathy and resilience. Its narrative about stepping into the unknown and discovering one's inner strength mirrors the idea of starting afresh this New Year.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'A Fresh Page' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on January 8. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

killjoy

(noun)
— a person who spoils other people's enjoyment

Usage:
— Pranshu didn't mean to be a killjoy but reminded his friends it was time to go home.
— Nirmala's constant weather complaints made her the picnic killjoy.

Should ZOOS EXIT?

Open Sesame readers talk it out

CREDIT: ISTOCK

YES

Zoos have played an important role in protecting animals and educating people for many years. They provide a safe place for endangered species that face threats such as habitat loss, pollution, and hunting. In the wild, many animals struggle to survive due to human activities, but in zoos, they receive proper food, medical care, and protection. Some species, like the red panda and certain turtles, are alive today only because zoos have helped in breeding programmes.

Zoos also help children and adults learn about animals. Seeing animals face-to-face creates curiosity and encourages people to care more about nature. Many people who later become scientists, veterinarians, or wildlife activists are inspired by their visits to zoos.

Modern zoos are improving constantly. They are creating larger, more natural enclosures that allow animals to behave as they do in the wild. They also research to understand animal behaviour, diseases, and environmental changes.

Of course, there are challenges, and zoos must always treat animals with kindness. But when managed responsibly, zoos can contribute greatly to conservation, education, and scientific progress. Thus, zoos should exist because they help protect wildlife and inspire future generations to care for the planet.

— **TANVI R KOLAR, 12**
Kalaburagi, Karnataka

NO

If we imagine ourselves in the place of animals, it becomes easier to understand why zoos raise serious ethical questions. Would humans like to be locked inside cages for their entire lives, and be watched for entertainment?

Animals, like humans, are living beings who deserve freedom and dignity. Keeping them confined in small enclosures restricts their natural instincts, movement, and social behaviours. Although human curiosity about wildlife is understandable, it does not justify taking away an animal's freedom. They are not toys or objects meant to be displayed for human pleasure.

Many zoos claim to educate people, but true learning should not come at the cost of an animal's suffering. Instead of traditional zoos, humans can create large, man-made jungles or protected wildlife sanctuaries where animals can live in environments closer to their natural habitats. People can observe animals from a safe distance without disturbing or controlling them.

With modern technology, documentaries enable humans with many ways to learn about animals without imprisoning them.

Zoos, in most cases, prioritise entertainment over animal welfare.

Therefore, rather than confining animals behind bars, society should focus on conservation efforts that respect their right to live freely in nature.

— **ASHER EASOW BABUJI, 10**
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to B R Ambedkar

If you got the chance to have a conversation with B R Ambedkar, the chief architect of our Constitution, what would you like to know from him, and what would you tell him about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city, and send us a recent photograph. Entries close on January 1.

This Week:

Song of songs

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 'Jana Gana Mana' was first publicly sung, on December 27, 1911, at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress. How many stanzas comprise the original Bengali version of the song?

Q2 On February 28, 1919, Rabindranath Tagore sang 'Jana Gana Mana' at Besant Theosophical College, Madanapalle. Who, at that institution, transcribed and preserved it in Western sheet music notation?

Q3 Which school chose 'Jana Gana Mana' as its special song, when that educational institution was established in 1935, long before the song became the national anthem of India?

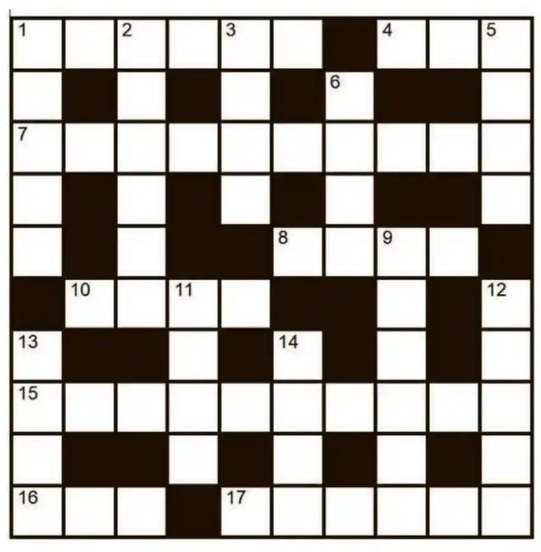
Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Tagore denied writing 'Jana Gana Mana' to praise King __.
Clue B: Deep narrow valley between hills/mountains.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Who arranged an orchestral performance of 'Jana Gana Mana', in Germany?
Use these clues.
a) INA
b) Japan
c) 1942
d) Hamburg

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Richelle (13), Bengaluru; Anushree (13), Bellary; Urvi (12), Davanagare.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across
1 We climb them (6)
4 Pen point (3)
7 What a new broom does (6,4)
8 Remain (4)
10 Pimples (4)
15 What honesty is (4,6)
16 Nevertheless (3)
17 We climb it (6)

Down
1 Coward (5)
2 Acid in vinegar (6)
3 Fruit, when ready to eat (4)
5 Spherical plaything (4)
6 Kill a fly (4)
9 Related to (6)
11 Short letter (4)
12 Entrance room (5)
13 Competently (4)
14 Unconscious state (4)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Stairs, 4 Nib, 7 Sweeps well, 8 Stay, 10 Acne, 15 Best policy, 16 Yet, 17 Ladder.
Down: 1 Sissy, 2 Acetic, 3 Ripe, 5 Ball, 6 Swat, 9 Allied, 11 Note, 12 Foyer, 13 Ably, 14 Coma.

8 films that delighted cine buffs in 2025

Showtime lists some of 2025's best films on OTT, for those who missed them at the theatres.

These movies offer social commentary, mirror society's hypocrisies and social discrimination, and highlight stories of resilience.

Bad Girl
Varsha Bharath's fantastic coming-of-age drama follows a rebellious young girl's journey through societal pressures, romance and adolescence. Exploring themes of female identity, the movie shows how women are breaking away from generational trauma.
JioHotstar

Hebbuli Cut
In the film, named after Kichcha Sudeep's unique hairstyle in a film, director Bheemarao P examines social hypocrisy, delving into the daily lives of young Dalits and Muslims who live under constant discrimination and suspicion in today's political climate. He also reveals how one is diabolically used to attack the other.
Amazon Prime Video

Humans in the Loop
Aranya Sahay's FIPRESCI award-winning drama explores Adivasi women working in Jharkhand's data centres. While the most glamorous parts of AI are being developed in first world countries, the director offers a picture of the unglamorous lives of these women.
Netflix

Elumale
Set in 2004, director Punit Rangaswamy's well-researched and intelligently constructed narrative offers dramatic tension in this edge-of-the-seat romantic thriller. The movie brings together a high profile manhunt and an innocent tale of love and faith.
Zee5

Su from So
This brilliantly written caper emerged as a sleeper hit, becoming the second highest grossing Kannada film of 2025. Director J P Thuminad wraps uproarious humour with subtle social commentary about toxic masculinity and sexual exploitation.
JioHotstar

Feminichi Fathima
A heartwarming feminist film that explores gender roles, financial independence and self-worth, showcasing resistance within a Muslim family setting. It is a humorous and relatable story about household patriarchy and the struggles of housewives.
Manorama Max

Naale Rajaa Koli Majaa
Non-vegetarian meals on Sundays is a ritual in most Indian households. Director Abhilash Shetty uses this to tell the story of 11-year-old Sneha and her shenanigans to eat chicken curry on one Gandhi Jayanthi which falls on a Sunday. There is never a dull moment in this social satire set in picturesque Malnad.
Amazon Prime Video

Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra
A female super-hero movie with brilliant visuals, immersive world building and impeccable writing. The first film in the Malayalam super hero universe blends Indian folklore and Hollywood superhero tales to bring a new compelling world. The movie also focuses on gender and caste oppression.
JioHotstar

Compiled by Pranati A S

Anjali Sivaraman in 'Bad Girl'.

Mark, now showing across Karnataka, was made at a frenetic pace because the actor didn't want a year to go by without a film from his stable

RUGGED ROLES work at the box office: Sudeep

TEAM SHOWTIME

'Mark', released on December 25 and showing across the state, was completed in 120 intense days. "We worked without wasting a single minute," actor Sudeep said, sharing details of its making with the press.

The release of two much anticipated films for Christmas is good for Kannada cinema, he said, referring to '45', starring Shivarajkumar, Upendra and Raj B Shetty, and released alongside 'Mark'.

Director Vijay Kartikeyaa prepared meticulously for 'Mark'. The 2024 hit 'Max', starring Sudeep, was also directed by him, and that was where the collaboration began.

"Vijay Kartikeyaa was initially unfamiliar with Kannada and the Kannada audiences, but as soon as 'Max' was released, he visited several parts of Karnataka, sat in the cinemas, and understood the pulse of the fans," Sudeep said.

Excerpts from a press interaction:

What are the benefits of shooting at such a pace?
Not all films can be shot at this pace. But a ready benefit is that we save about Rs 7 crore to Rs 8 crore on interest alone. The producers can get returns on their investment within six months. Moreover, you can wrap up a project and move on to the next. Usually we are involved in a project for a long time. A film like my Billa Ranga Basha (upcoming) can't be completed even in six months. But about 80% of all films can be made at the pace of 'Mark'.

Why did you suddenly take up this film?
I realised it was impossible to do 'Billa Ranga Basha' this year, and I didn't want to lose a year. The industry expected a film from me. That is when I thought of Vijay–he had already told me the outline of Mark, and I had liked it. I called some of our directors here, but they were caught up in their own productions. The story of 'Mark' gets full marks. The mass role doesn't end in a massy way–it ends in an emotional, touching scene.

Is a Max-Mark universe coming up?
It is possible, but I am not creating one. When a film becomes a hit, we think of a sequel. But when we sit down to write it, we realise the difficulties. The characters are different. In all aspects, 'Mark' is three times bigger than 'Max'.

What are you doing next?
A Telugu director is doing a romantic comedy for me. A Kannada producer is making it, and it will be released in the middle of 2026. 'Billa Ranga Basha' may hit the screens towards the end of 2026. I am talking about a big-budget mythological film with Prem. I am also discussing a film with director Anoop Bhandari.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

Why is there no heroine in 'Mark'?
To have a heroine, we should have a strong reason. The heroine in my film shouldn't just be a prop, confined to a song. We haven't included any comedy either as the story didn't demand it.

Your fanbase is huge among women.
They have always liked my rugged roles, where I smoke and sport a stubble. I banked on women fans and made 'Mussanje Maatu'. It had a soft run. Films with a rough look have been hits at the box office.

What do you expect from the government on stopping piracy?
We have sought their help. We have formed a team to stop piracy, and we will be 80% successful in stopping piracy links reaching people. I have realised that 'Mark' is being pirated not to make money but to spoil its prospects. Before the release, I went to Hubballi to celebrate, but I stopped the celebrations and spoke about this. In the process, I lost an opportunity to spend a wonderful evening with my fans. Whoever had to hear it has heard it. I am not one to speak recklessly. Earlier, when I was asked about Darshan, I didn't speak badly. I respect him, and I feel pained about certain developments. As actors, we have never clashed. Whatever differences we may have, they are between us. We shouldn't come down from the screen and get involved in the clashes on the ground. Our job is to tell a story and go home.

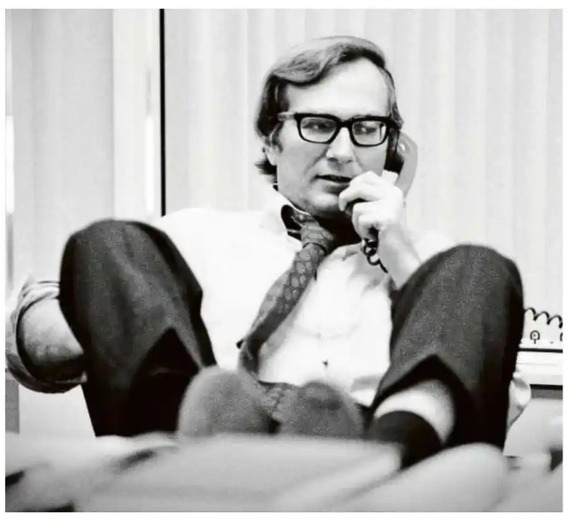
On 'Mark' and '45' releasing on the same day...
Shivarajkumar is our asset. His presence is required for the industry. He has to take up different roles as an actor. We should feel happy about two Kannada films being released on December 25. Otherwise, films in other languages would have cashed in on the holiday season. This is not a clash. In fact, (director) Arjun Janya had told me the story of 45 first. I am keen to see the film.

Sudeep at a press conference on Tuesday.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Sharp tribute to investigative journalism

AMOGH RAVINDRA



Seymour M Hersh is an American investigative journalist.

★★★½☆

Cover-Up
English (Netflix)
Director: Mark Obenhaus, Laura Poitras
Cast: Seymour M Hersh

Laura Poitras and Mark Obenhaus's 'Cover-Up', about American investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, does not turn him into a hero. It shows him as a long-running irritant to power. The film moves through his career in a clear, chronological way, with little patience for excuses. Over 117 minutes, the film moves like a filing cabinet opening and closing.

The film's strength is that it is not just about reporting. It often feels like reporting itself. Poitras drops you into the work. Anonymous calls, a single name that grows into a case, and the long wait for official sources to give way. Hersh, now in his late 80s, comes across as talkative, cranky, and funny. We see the influence of I F Stone, his early years at the Associated Press, how he broke the My Lai story, and why he kept going.

Poitras keeps the film visually spare. Restored archival footage and sharp editing replace sentimentality. The story moves quickly from Vietnam and My Lai to CIA surveillance, Watergate, and the torture exposed at Abu Ghraib. It ends in the present with a familiar chill. The same language returns. The same evasions. The same deaths. Late-career controversies are noted, but they do not overwhelm the larger record.

'Cover-Up' is gripping, but not comforting. It presents journalism as both duty and burden. The film suggests the work never truly ends. As power adapts and language shifts, someone still has to take the call and refuse to look away.

A hiss-terical disaster

TAHER AHMED

★½☆☆☆

Anaconda
English (Theatres)
Director: Tom Gormican
Cast: Paul Rudd, Jack Black, Steve Zahn, Thandiwe Newton, Daniela Melchior

Some movies created a place for themselves in the minds and hearts of audiences. The original 1997 'Anaconda' is one among them, and it worked on multiple levels. At a time when studios want to cash in on big names with reboots and sequels, it would only be fair to say that this 'Anaconda' had great potential.

Alas, the potential remains only in the premise and doesn't translate on screen. Childhood friends, Doug McCallister (Jack Black) a spirited wedding filmmaker and Ronald Griff (Paul Rudd), an aspiring actor down on his luck in LA, find themselves in a mid-life crisis. Having sacrificed their dreams to eke a living, they are reunited by a movie they made as kids, sparking off ideas to recreate the original 'Anaconda'.

Along with other friends, they reach Brazil to shoot their classic tribute to the original.

What's confusing however, is the movie's direction. You aren't sure whether it was aimed to be satirical or silly, for it twists and turns without any solid premise. The first half, is extremely slow, making you wonder what is going on. In the second half the gang find themselves being hunted by the snake, even as they continue shooting for their movie.

The comedic relief which one expected is barely present, with few scenes generating muted laughs.

Ultimately, the movie constricts logic until it suffocates and dies a painful death, and you might breathe a sigh of relief once its finally over.

Jack Black and Paul Rudd.

Samarjit Lankesh and Mohanlal.

Mohanlal wasted in tiresome fantasy

JAGADISH ANGADI

★½☆☆☆

Vrusshabha
Malayalam (Theatres)
Director: Nanda Kishore
Cast: Mohanlal, Samarjit Lankesh, Nayan Sarika, Ragini Dwivedi, Ajay

In his fantasy drama, 'Vrusshabha', director Nanda Kishore tries to explore themes of reincarnation, generational cycles, parallel timelines, and father-son dynamics.

The movie begins with Vijayendra Vrusshabha (Mohanlal), the king of Trilinga, trying to steal the sacred Atma Linga. Legend has it that the Linga safeguards the land, and its removal would unleash famine and violence. The king inadvertently kills a young boy, prompting the grief-stricken mother to curse him, foretelling he will face the pain of losing his own son.

Centuries pass, and the king is reborn as Aadi Deva Varma, with a son named Tej (Samarjit Lankesh). A chance visit to the village that was once Trilinga turns their lives upside down. Tej, once his father's protector, now sees him as a rival and tries to take him down. The rest of the story unravels the mystery behind Tej's drastic change and explores Aadi Deva Varma and his son's fate as they grapple with the ancient curse.

'Vrusshabha' bears striking similarities to several movies, including 'Baahubali', 'Kanguva', the 'Kantara' franchise, and 'Apthamitra'. The plot is full of head-scratchers, like Tej's whirlwind romance and marriage to a girl he barely knows.

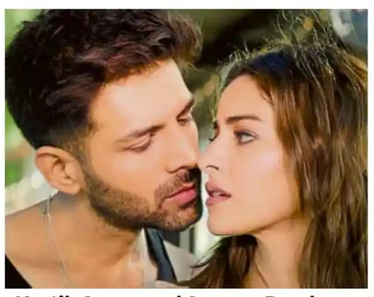
The film is bogged down by its weak screenplay and disjointed narrative. The director's chaotic vision and lack of conviction in storytelling is evident throughout. Below-par production values with a jarring background score and dull cinematography add to the disaster.

While Mohanlal and Samarjit Lankesh deliver standout performances, Nayan Sarika and Ragini Dwivedi are underutilised.

Touted as one of Mohanlal's most expensive projects, 'Vrusshabha' turns out to be a tiresome watch.

Cliché marries silliness in Karan Johar romance

SHRADDHA A K



Kartik Aryan and Ananya Panday

★★☆☆☆

Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri
Hindi (Theatres)
Director: Sameer Sanjay Vidwans
Cast: Ananya Panday, Karthik Aaryan, Jackie Shroff, Neena Gupta

This 145-minute romantic comedy from Karan Johar's stable, follows protagonists Rehaan "Ray" Mehra (played by Karthik Aaryan), an A-list wedding planner based in Los Angeles, and Rumi Wardhan Singh (Ananya Panday), a struggling romance author from Agra. Their love story unfolds in a cat-and-mouse fashion.

The clichéd plot follows the girl looking for '90s love' in today's 'hookup culture'. Boy and girl meet on vacation, hookup and fall in love before the girl breaks it off.

The film is burdened with poorly written Gen Z jokes that often miss the mark, along with random references to memes, series, and movies. These elements make the characters increasingly annoying, especially the portrayals of the Mama's boy and Daddy's girl trope.

While the movie attempted to address issues of girls having to leave their family after marriage, it ultimately falls flat as the ending feels forced and adheres to the standard clichés of Bollywood's happy endings.

The characters have potential but lack depth and niche characterisation. For instance, Karthik's character is meant to be an NRI entrepreneur rooted in his culture, but instead, he comes off as a regular Delhite.

The only redeeming aspects of the movie are the visuals, and Ananya's wardrobe, which could easily set the next 'vacation outfit' trend.

To reiterate from the movie itself, "the only reason I sat through this was that I had to review it."

Palestinian actor Mohammad Bakri dies

Mohammed Bakri

▸ Mohammad Bakri, Palestinian actor and filmmaker who sought to share the complexities of Palestinian identity and culture through a variety of works in both Arabic and Hebrew, has died, his family announced. He was 72.

Bakri was best known for 'Jenin, Jenin', a 2003 documentary he directed about an Israeli military operation in the northern West Bank city during the second Palestinian uprising. Bakri also acted in the 2025 film 'All That's Left of You', a drama about a Palestinian family through more than 76 years. The film has been shortlisted by the Academy Awards for the best international feature film. He is well-known for his roles in movies like 'Wajib' and 'Laila's Birthday'.

Over the years, he made several films that spanned the spectrum of Palestinian experiences. During the 1980s, Bakri played characters in mainstream Israeli films that humanised the Palestinian identity.

Sequel to hit serial 'Rajani'

▸ Actor-director Karan Razdan, is back with a new version of the popular 1985 show 'Rajani'. He has discovered that the episodes of the original serial, starring former wife Priya Tendulkar, are lost.

The serial, which Razdan wrote and Basu Chatterjee directed, featured late star Tendulkar as a middle class housewife who takes on issues related to the common public. It was quite popular at the time and even featured cameos from Shah Rukh Khan and Subhash Ghai. The new version, currently streaming on Prasar Bharathi's Waves OTT, features Aradhana Sharma as Rajani's daughter.

According to Razdan, the new version about topical problems like safety of women in workplace, digital arrests, etc.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi

Raghuvanshi discharged from hospital after head injury

JAIPUR, PTI: Mumbai opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi was rushed to hospital on Friday after a heavy fall while attempting a difficult catch left him with an injury just below the neck and a concussion during his team's Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Uttarakhand here.

The 21-year-old has since been discharged and returned to the team hotel after scans revealed nothing serious.

The incident occurred in the 30th over, bowled by off-spinner Tanush Kotian. Right-handed batter Saurabh Rawat attempted a slog-sweep and Raghuvanshi, stationed at deep mid-wicket, sprinted in towards mid-wicket to get hold of the top edge.

However, his valiant one-handed effort didn't yield the desired result but in the process he had a nasty fall and his head hit the ground, resulting in a concussion.

Jones strikes a brace in Sree Gajanana's win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jones Muthuraj's brace powered Sree Gajanana FC past Snipers FC to a 4-2 win during their BDFA A Division League Championship held at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Friday.

Jones opened the scoring in the 8th minute before adding his second in the 41st. B Madan also found the back of the net in the 37th minute to give his team a 3-0 lead by the end of halftime.

Snipers FC pulled one back through Abhil A Thanangattil's 59th minute goal, but B Devaraj's 85th minute strike restored Sree Gajanana's cushion and effectively sealed the contest.

Chiranjit Murali added a stoppage time goal (90+3), though it proved little more than consolation.

Results: BTM FC: 2 (Rohen Jonathan 45th pen, Brajabasi Mayum Harikanta Sharma 88th) bt Chikkamagaluru: 0; FC Deccan: 1 (Thuimthing M 60th) drew with AGOR FC: 1 (Jaikumar Y 78th); Sree Gajanana FC: 4 (Jones Muthuraj 8th, 41st, B Madan 37th, B Devaraj 85th) bt Snipers FC: 2 (Abhil A Thanangattil 59th, Chiranjit Murali 90th+3).

CRICKET VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Imperious Kohli aids Delhi romp

Pant too rediscovers form with a fifty in nervy 7-run win

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Virat Kohli's genius, Rishabh Pant's discovery of form and a collective bowling effort orchestrated Delhi's nervy seven-run win over Gujarat in their second Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite Group D fixture at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence here on Friday.

The value of Kohli (77, 61b, 13x4, 1x6) and Pant's (70, 79b, 8x4, 2x6) innings were evident during Gujarat's chase, which disintegrated after Aarya Desai (55, 77b, 8x4, 2x6) and Saurav Chauhan's (49, 43b, 5x4, 2x6) contributions. They were shot out in 47.4 overs.

With Prince Yadav's (3/37) triple strikes, along with two-wicket effort from Ishant Sharma (2/28) and Arpit Rana (2/39), Delhi picked up wickets at regular intervals, especially when Gujarat threatened to cross the line.

Earlier in the day, the 37-year-old Kohli, who usually loves a good run chase, was in pursuit of perfection in his potential last domestic List A game of the season. And for 60 balls in his 81-minute stay, he seemed to have attained what he wanted.

Unlike the first game, where he was handed two lifelines, Kohli engineered a chanceless knock on a day when batting from both sides veered from ordinary to sublime.

Starting with a couple of lofted shots straight down the ground, Kohli pressed into rhythm, thwarting Chintan Gaja for a four and a six to kickstart the onslaught.

On a surface that had some bite for the quicks, Arzan Nagwaswalla extracted bounce and also beat Kohli on the outside edge. In response, he played a cracking cut shot that flew to the fence.

Kohli, then, brought out a trademark cover drive and followed it up with a beautiful on-drive, finding boundaries at ease.

Measured way

The former India skipper continued to bat in his own measured way and raced to his 85th List A fifty in 29 balls, smashing 10 fours and a six.

Once the spinners were introduced, he looked to throw them off their lengths, attempting to play shots behind and square of the wicket. Eventually, the concentration dipped and Kohli was stumped in a flash by Urvil Patel off Vishal B Jayswal (4/42).

On the other hand, Pant, who was struggling for form, finally found his touch. The 28-year-old wicketkeeper walked to the middle with Delhi in a precarious 98/3 and refrained from hitting his way out of pressure, batting at a strike rate of under 65 in his first 20 balls.

Once he grew in confidence, Pant upped the ante with shots all over the park and got to his 12th List A fifty in 64 balls, dispatching Ravi Bishnoi (2/50) for a six over long-on.

Kohli was also awarded the player of the match for his match-defining 77 and two catches.

Group D: Delhi: 254/9 in 50 overs (Virat Kohli 77, Rishabh Pant 70, Harsh Tyagi 40; Ravi Bishnoi 2-50, Vishal B Jayswal 4-42) bt Gujarat: 247 all out in 47.4 overs (Aarya Desai 57, Urvil Patel 31, Abhishek Desai 26, Saurabh Chauhan 49, Vishal B Jayswal 26; Prince Yadav 3-37, Ishant Sharma 2-28, Arpit Rana 2-39).

Virat Kohli (right) continued his good run with classy 77 while Rishabh Pant found some touch with a 70 as Delhi beat Gujarat by seven runs at BCCI's CoE in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTOS/ PRASHANTH HG

Padikkal, Nair fashion Karnataka's win over Kerala

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Devdutt Padikkal slammed his second consecutive ton while Karun Nair also scored a run-a-ball century to guide defending champions Karnataka to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Kerala in their second Group A match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy ODI tournament here on Friday.

Karnataka, who defeated Jharkhand in their tournament opener on Wednesday, elected to field after winning the toss and restricted Kerala to 284 for 7.

Kerala didn't have the best of starts, losing their first three wickets for 49 before Baba Aparajith (71 off 62) and wicketkeeper Mohammed Azharuddeen (84 off 58) made significant contributions to take their side to the total.

Left-arm medium pace Abhilash Shetty (3/59) picked up three wickets while Shreyas Gopal claimed 2/61 for Karnataka.

Karun Nair (left) and Devdutt Padikkal. PTI/DH FILE PHOTOS

In reply, Karnataka lost skipper Mayank Agarwal early before last match centurion Padikkal and Nair stitched match-winning 223 runs for the second wicket off 234 balls to set the base for the chase which the title holders achieved in 48.2 overs.

MP down TN

Madhya Pradesh defeated Tamil Nadu by two wickets in a close encounter to jump to the top of Group A here with two wins from as many matches.

Electing to bat first, Sai Sudharsan (51) and skipper Narayan Jagadeesan (55) shared 115 runs for the opening wicket.

Brief scores (Group A): Kerala: 284/7 in 50 overs (Baba Aparajith 71, Akhil Scaria 27, Vishnu Vinod 35, Mohammed Azharudden 84 n.o., Nidheesh MD 34 n.o.; Abhilash Shetty 3-59, Shreyas Gopal 2-61) lt to Karnataka: 285/2 in 48.2 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 124, Karun Nair 130 n.o., Smaran R 25 n.o.).

Tamil Nadu: 280 all out in 50 overs (Sai Sudharsan 51, Narayan Jagadeeshan 55, Mohamed Ali 57, Sunny Sandhu 43, Tripuresh Singh 2-61, Mangesh Yadav 2-45, Kumar Karthikeya 3-62) lt to Madhya Pradesh: 283/8 in 49.3 overs (Yash Dubey 92, Himanshu Mantri 90, Ventakesh Iyer 32; G Govinth 4-54, Gurjapneet 2-60, Sonu Yadav 2-60).

Jharkhand: 301 all out in 50 overs (Shikhar Mohan 129, Anukul Roy 52, Manishi 26; Khaleel Ahmed 4-49, Ashok Sharma 2-58) bt Rajasthan: 228 all out in 50 overs (Karan Lamba 102, M Choudhary 33, M Suthar 27; Sushant Mishra 2-32, Shubham Kumar 6-50).

Puducherry: 150 all out in 41.3 overs (Bhanu Anand 30, Jayant Yadav 51; Swapnil Singh 3-49, Viki Saha 2-23) lt to Tripura: 151/3 in 32.3 overs (UU Bose 53, Vijay Shankar 47 n.o.; 2-16).

Aussies edge ahead after 20-wicket opening day

MELBOURNE, AFP

An astounding 20 wickets fell on a frantic day one of the fourth Ashes Test on Friday with Australia all out for 152 before storming back to dismiss England for 110 and leave the clash on a knife-edge.

England skipper Ben Stokes won a key toss on a green track and his quicks feasted after sending in the hosts under overcast skies in front of 94,199 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

It was the biggest cricket crowd ever at the cavernous arena, exceeding the 93,013 who watched the 2015 World Cup final, and they witnessed the home side collapse with Josh Tongue grabbing 5-45.

But England fared even worse, slumping to 16-4 and never recovering, leaving Australia to face one over before stumps, which nightwatchman Scott Boland safely negotiated with Travis Head at the other end.

Australia were 4-0 at the close with Boland on four, 46 ahead, with Head yet to face a ball.

"I feel like anyone could have taken a 'five-fer' today," said Tongue, who became the first Englishman to take five wickets in an innings in a Test at the MCG since Dean Headley and Darren Gough in 1998.

"When I'm at my best I'm bowling at that fuller length. Stokes has spoken to us quite a bit about it, going a touch fuller but hitting the pitch hard.

"If we get the ball in the same areas tomorrow we can get them three of four wickets down in the first hour."

Australia bowler Michael Neser, who took 4-45, was not making any predictions for the second innings after a day when the ball dominated the bat.

"We saw how tough it was when we batted. The ball was nipping around and we needed to bowl in the right areas," Neser said.

"You need to put pressure back on their bowlers. You need to find the perfect balance between defence and attack."

Beleaguered England opener Ben Duckett's week went from bad to worse, out for two just days after unverified video surfaced showing him drunk during a mid-series beach break.

It was another shocking dismissal for the 31-year-old, lobbing a simple catch to Neser at mid-on off the irrepressible Mitchell Starc.

Neser in the next over removed Jacob Bethell, playing in place of the under-performing Ollie Pope, when he edged to Alex Carey behind the stumps.

Zak Crawley was taken in the slips by Steve Smith off Starc four balls later, then Joe Root edged Neser to Carey to put England into freefall.

Harry Brook decided attack was the best form of defence, smashing sixes off Starc and Neser, and with Stokes temporarily halted the carnage. They put on 50 before Scott Boland trapped Brook lbw for 41.

Brief scores: Australia: 152 all out in 45.2 overs (Usman Khawaja 29, Michael Neser 35; Gus Atkinson 2-28, Josh Tongue 5-45) vs England 110 all out in 29.5 overs (Harry Brook 41, Gus Atkinson 28; Mitchell Starc 2-23, Michael Neser 4-45, Scott Boland 3-30).

England's Josh Tongue claimed five as pacers dominated the opening day of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne on Friday. AFP

Meropi clinches Army Cup

KOLKATA RESULTS

Aashay Doctor-trained Meropi, ridden by Mukesh Kumar, won the Army Cup, the feature event of the Calcutta races on Friday.

1. Romantic Eve Handicap - 1600M: Cristaldo (S Dhanalakshmi) Suraj Narredu 1; Carnation (Vishal Bunde) 2; Scgwarzenegger (M.S.Deora) 3; God-send Divine (Hindu Singh) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 3/4, 3L. T: 1-41.64. TB: B Mahesh. Fav: Cristaldo.

2. Star Team Plate - 1100M: Monumental (Ram H Shroff) Suraj Narredu 1 Saiko (A Prakash) 2; Rambha (Vaibhav) 3; Silver Dream (Hindu Singh) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, 2-3/4, 5-1/2l. T: 1-06.58. TB: Satish Narredu. Fav: Monumental.

3. Gen A S Vaidhya Memorial Cup - 2000M: Dusenberg (K N Dhunjibhoy) A Prakash 1; Whirlwind (Suraj Narredu) 2; Champagnesupernova (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Stormy Ocean (Azaruddin) 4; Wb: 5, 6, 6L. T: 2-06.54. TB: Pesi Shroff. Fav: Dusenberg.

4. Unknown Warrior Cup - 1200M: Abhicandra (Vikram Bachhawat) A.Prakash 1; Morano (Vaibhav) 2; Superlative (Gaurav Singh) 3; La Dominate (M S Deora) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 3/4, 3-1/2L. T: 1-12.50. TB: Shyam Habbu. Fav: Morano.

5. Army Cup - 1400M: Meropi (Solomon Benveniste) Mukesh Kumar 1; Vincent Van Gogh (Gaurav Singh) 2; Black Eagle (Vishal Bunde) 3; High Command (A Prakash) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, 1-1/4, 5L. T: 1-24.11 TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Meropi.

6. Twilight Lady Handicap (Div-I) - 1600M: Magnifico (Mrs Pallavi Sharma) Vaibhav 1; Immortal Beauty (Suraj Narredu) 2; Global Fashion (M S Deora) 3; Fortune Warrior (Jagadeesh) 4; Wb: 3-1/2, 1-1/4, 3-1/2L. T: 1-39.30. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Magnifico.

7. Twilight Lady Handicap (Div-II) - 1600M: Cigar Galaxy (Mrs Rina Mahindra) Mukesh Kumar 1; Black Diamond (Suraj Narredu) 2; Paulte Warrior (Hindu Singh) 3; Verrazzano (Vinay Jaiswal) 4; Not Run: Veneno. Wb: 3-1/4, 3/4, 2-3/4L. T: 1-39.49. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Cigar Galaxy.

Bengaluru Dividends: I race: Rs 17w; 11, 15p; Fc: Rs 39; Q: Rs 26; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 32: Tri: Rs 365 & 238; Ex: Rs 241 & 57. **II race**: Rs 13w; 11, 12p; Fc: Rs 33; Q: Rs 24; Shp: Rs 26; .Thp: Rs 27; Tri: Rs 40 & 17; Ex: Rs 110 & 94. **III race**: Rs 13w; 10, 12p; Fc: Rs 18; Q: Rs 16; Shp: Rs 19; Thp: Rs 20; Tri: Rs 18 & 10; **IV race**: Rs 22w; 11, 13p: Fc: Rs 38; Q: Rs 15; Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 177 & 81; Ex: Rs 194 & 80. **V race**: Rs 15w; 10, 22p; Fc: Rs 36; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 84 & 16; Ex: Rs 192 & 111. **VI race**: Rs 27w; 12, 14, 18p; Fc: Rs 60; Q: Rs 35; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 47; Tri: Rs 204 & 152; Ex: Rs 466 & 157. **VII race**: Rs 17w; 13, 10, 10p; Fc: Rs 85; Q: Rs 40; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 43 & 19; Ex: Rs 411 & 390.

Jackpot: Rs 249 (1406). **Runner-up**: Rs 53 (2808). **I treble**: Rs 69 (547). **II treble**: Rs 79 (1019).

Cummins eyes T20 WC comeback in India & SL

MELBOURNE, PTI: Australia Test and ODI captain Pat Cummins will cool his heels after his successful hit-and-run Ashes appearance in Adelaide as he sets sights on the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka in February next year.

Cummins missed the first two Ashes Tests due to a lower-back injury he suffered during the West Indies tour in June-July, but made a brilliant return in the third match in Adelaide to pick up six wickets.

With the Ashes urn in their hands, Australia decided to rule Cummins out of the two remaining Tests.

The 32-year-old Cummins said on Friday he will now take rest before targeting the T20 World Cup which begins in early February.

Double delight for shooter Suraj

NEW DELHI, PTI

Suraj Sharma won both the senior and junior men's 25m rapid fire pistol titles at the National Shooting C'ships. X

Madhya Pradesh's Suraj Sharma delivered a golden double, sweeping both the senior and junior men's titles in the 25m rapid fire pistol at the National Shooting Championships here on Friday.

Suraj began the senior final in dominant fashion, hitting 19 of his first 20 targets, and went on to close the contest with 31 hits, finishing three clear of defending champion Vijayveer Sidhu of Punjab, who settled for the silver medal with 28 hits.

Rajasthan's Bhavesh Shekhawat rounded off the podium, claiming bronze with a total of 24 hits.

Earlier in the qualification round, Ankur Goel topped the standings with a strong score of 582-20x. He was followed closely by Vijayveer, who shot 580-18x, while Adarsh Singh finished third with 579-22x. Suraj qualified fifth with 579-12x.

Earlier in the RFP junior men final, Suraj produced another composed display to win the gold medal with 30 hits.

Mukeshi secured the silver medal, finishing with 25 hits. Haryana's Jatin settled for the bronze medal with 22 hits after a shoot-off, having earlier shot 575-13x in qualification.

In the senior team category, Punjab claimed the gold medal with an aggregate score of 1725, led by Vijayveer, Udhayveer Sidhu, and Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu.

Haryana secured the silver medal with 1722 through the combined efforts of Adarsh Singh, Mandeep Singh, and Sameer, while the Navy claimed bronze with 1711, courtesy of Pradeep Singh Shekhawat, Rajat Kumar Yadav, and Omkar Singh.

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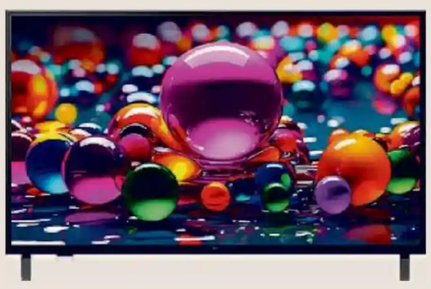

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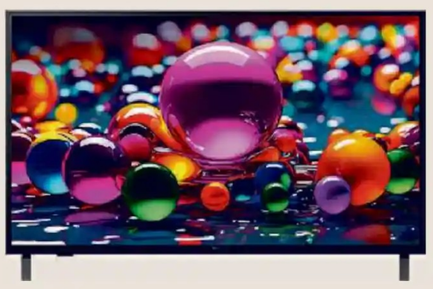

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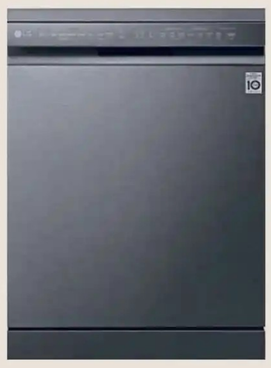

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Winners Lavanya Singh (left) and Avyaan Bhatsoori pose with their spoils.

Avyaan, Lavanya crowned champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Top-seeded Avyaan of Karnataka and Lavanya of Uttar Pradesh claimed the boys' and girls' singles titles respectively in the MAT-AITA Under-12 Championship Series tennis tournament held at the Murugan Academy of Tennis here on Friday.

Avyaan defeated the fourth seed Darsh M of Karnataka 6-3, 6-2 to be crowned the boys' champion. Avyaan thus completed a fine double as he had won the doubles titles as well, partnering with Ved Mehta of Karnataka on Thursday.

Lavanya, after dropping the first set, rallied to beat second seed Rachel Rayudu of Karnataka 1-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Results (finals): Singles:
Boys: Avyaan Bhatsoori (Kar) bt Darsh Malhan (Kar) 6-3, 6-2.
Girls: Lavanya Singh (UP) bt Rachel Rayudu (Kar) 1-6, 6-2, 6-2.

IN BRIEF

Junior Natl kho kho in City from Wednesday

▸ Around 35 boys and as many girls' teams will vie for top honours in the 44th Junior National Kho Kho Championship to be held in Bengaluru from December 31 to January 4, reports DHNS.

Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Delhi are the Union Territories participating in the Championship.

The teams have been divided into eight groups each.

K'taka team for SZ aquatics

▸ A strong Karnataka contingent comprising 77 members will look to dominate the pool once again at the 36th South Zone Swimming and Waterpolo Championship at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana from December 27 to 29, reports DHNS.

Wild card for Suresh

▸ India's Dhakshineswar Suresh has been named as a wild card entrant for the singles main draw for the 10th Bengaluru Open scheduled to be held from January 5 to 11 at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium, reports DHNS.

The 25-year-old Suresh, known for his big serves, featured in India's extended Davis Cup World Group I squad in 2024, followed by a memorable debut during the September tie against Switzerland this year.

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4th Test: Australia vs England **(day 2, 5:00 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL
EPL: Nottingham Forest vs Man City **(6 pm)**, West Ham vs Fulham, Brentford vs Bournemouth, Liverpool vs Wolves, Arsenal vs Brighton, Burnley vs Everton **(all 8:30 pm)**, Chelsea vs Aston Villa **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET WOMEN'S T20I SERIES

India ease to series victory

Shafali's blitz, Renuka's haul give hosts 8-wkt win over SL

Renuka Singh (second from left) celebrates after taking a Sri Lankan wicket during India's 8-wicket win in the third of the five-match T20I series in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. X

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI

Renuka Singh Thakur and Deepti Sharma dazzled with the ball before Shafali Verma's pyrotechnics powered India to a commanding eight-wicket victory over Sri Lanka, clinching the five-match series in the third women's T20I here on Friday.

With the win, India have taken an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series, underlining their complete dominance over the visitors. The contest followed a familiar script, with India first restricting Sri Lanka to a modest total before overhauling the target with consummate ease.

Renuka (4/21) marked her return to the side in scintillating fashion, while Deepti became the joint-highest wicket-taker in women's T20Is as India limited Sri Lanka to a paltry 112 for seven.

Shafali, who blazed away to an unbeaten 79 off 42 balls, was at her imperious best as she single-handedly dismantled the chase, powering India home with 40 balls to spare.

Playing her first T20I since December last year, Renuka did what she does best with the new ball, rattling the Sri Lankan top order and swinging the momentum decisively in India's favour.

The ever-reliable Deepti (3/18) provided excellent support with timely breakthroughs and also joined Australia's Megan Schutt as the highest wicket-taker in women's T20Is, claiming her 151st scalp in the format.

Chasing the modest target, the big-hitting Shafali picked up from where she had left off in the previous match, going all guns blazing to register her second consecutive half-century.

After facing three dot balls, the explosive opener danced down the track to clobber a towering 83-metre six over long-off, following it up with back-to-back boundaries through midwicket and mid-off.

Timing the ball to perfection, she punished the Sri Lankan bowlers with an entertaining knock, smashing 11 boundaries and three sixes.

Spinner Kavisha Dilhari (2/18) briefly stalled India's momentum by removing vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's (1), whose lean patch continued, and Jemimah Rodrigues, but the outcome was never in doubt with Shafali finishing it off in style with a boundary.

Earlier trying to stay alive in the series, Hasini Perera (25) gave Sri Lanka a brisk start, striking two boundaries to plunder 12 runs of the opening over bowled by Renuka.

Perera mixed caution with innovation, even scooping the ball over the wicketkeeper to pick up her fourth boundary, ensuring skipper Chamari Athapaththu (3) was kept out of pressure despite her struggle to rotate the strike early on.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 112/7 in 20 overs (Hasini Perera 25, Imesha Dulani 27; Renuka Singh 4-21, Deepti Sharma 3-18) lt to India: 115/2 in 13.2 overs (Shafali Verma 79 n.o.; Kavisha Dilhari 2-18). **Result:** India won by 8 wkts. **PoM:** Renuka Singh.

Teenager Krishna in joint lead with Carlsen

Slow start for Gukesh, Praggu at World Rapid C'ships

DOHA, PTI

Teenage International Master Krishna Goutham emerged an unlikely joint leader with three consecutive wins, while star Indian players D Gukesh and R. Praggnanandhaa got their campaign off to a slow but steady start in the FIDE World Rapid Championships here on Friday.

The 15-year-old from Kerala, who has achieved significant success including finishing runners-up at the National Championship, showcased his talent by earning full points in the three opening rounds.

He shares the lead with the likes of world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, top Indian exponent Arjun Erigaisi, and Vladislav Artemiev, a leading Russian GM with a 2700-plus rating.

With two more rounds to go on the opening day, world champion in classical chess Gukesh (2.5 points) too came up with a couple of good wins but a draw pushed him down the order, while Praggnanandhaa was on two points after a win in the opening round.

However, the day belonged to Goutham, who overcame Serbian GM Indjic Aleksandar with black pieces, before getting the better of one of the top Indian GM Aravindh Chithambaram with white and then outmanoeuvreing Azerbaijan's Radjabov Teimour.

Gukesh started sedately with a hard-fought draw against Canadian GM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux, before notching up full points against player Sergey Drygalov and Petrov Nikita of Montenegro.

Praggnanandhaawas off too a fine start with a win against a lower-ranked opponent Tsaruk Maksim, following which he was held to a draw by country-mate Abhimanyu Puranik. His third-round game against another lower-ranked Grandmaster Rakhmanov Aleksandr too ended in a stalemate.

India's Krishna Goutham emerged an unlikely joint leader with three consecutive wins at the end of day 1 at the FIDE World Rapid Championships in Doha on Friday. X

Shruti Mundada beat second seed Anupama Upadhyaya to enter the semifianl of the Sr Badminton Nationals. X

Surya, Shruti score upset wins over Unnati, Anupama

VIJAYAWADA, PTI: Producing major upsets, local favourite Surya Charishma Tamiri and seasoned campaigner Shruti Mundada ousted the top two seeds -- Unnati Hooda and Anupama Upadhyaya -- in straight games to advance to the women's singles semifinals of the Senior National Badminton Championships, here Friday.

Surya was in complete control against top seed Unnati, sealing a 21-12, 21-15 quarterfinal win in 36 minutes, while Shruti accounted for second seed and former national champion Anupama 22-20, 21-12 in a 39-minute contest.

In the semifinals, Surya will face Rakshita Sree after the 18-year-old came from a game down to beat world junior championships silver medallist Tanvi Sharma 16-21, 21-14, 21-18.

In the men's singles category, top seed Kiran George had to work hard to overcome the challenge of 11th seed Rounak Chauhan 21-18, 21-18 in 41 minutes.

He will now face 2024 Odisha Open champion Rithvik Sanjeevi S, who defeated K Sathish Kumar 21-13, 22-20 in the other quarterfinal.

The other semifinal will see second seed Tharun Mannepalli take on unseeded Bharat Raghav. In the quarterfinals, Tharun scored a 21-13, 22-20 victory over Manraj Singh, while Bharat got the better of Ginpaul Sonna 21-17, 21-13.

Chethan, Santhosh take Freelancers CC to semis

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chethan Kumar's unbeaten half-century, along with an overall show by Santhosh, propelled Freelancers Cricket Club to a comfortable six-wicket win over Bangalore Star Cricket Association in the quarterfinals of the KSCA Group I, Division IV League cum Knockout tournament for the Metro Shield here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Batting first, BSCA could only manage 160 all out in 39.1 overs with KM Bhanu Prakash (4/22) and Santhosh (3/28) inflicting damage. Chethan remained unbeaten on 74 to take their team over the finish line in 38.2 overs.

In the other last-eight encounters, Spartons Sports Club defeated Blue Diamond Cricketers by a whopping nine wickets, Sapphire Cricket Club got the better of Wadiyar Cricket Club with an eight-wicket victory and Sangam Cricket Association also scored an eight-wicket win over Merchant Cricket Club (1) to complete the semifinal line-up.

Brief scores: Quarterfinal: Blue Diamond Cricketers: 122 all out in 40.5 overs (Madan Mohan Krishna 39; Aditya Singh 4-25, Nithin Naidu 2-21, Sanjay R 3-14) lt to Spartons SC: 123/1 in 17.4 overs (Lakshmi Sagar 94).

Wadiyar CC: 56 all out in 22.4 overs (Dominic Fernandes 2-10, M K Hemesh 5-23, Pavan Gokhale 3-18) lt to Sapphire CC: 60/2 in 15.3 overs (Ravikumar M 32 n.o.).

Bangalore Star CA: 160 all out in 39.1 overs (Suresh LS 27, Sureen MU 41; Santhosh 3-28, KM Bhanu Prakash 4-22) lt to Freelancers CC: 162/4 in 38.2 overs (Chethan Kumar 74 n.o., Santhosh 35; Karthik Govind Rathod 2-29).

Merchant CC (1): 116 all out in 28.4 overs (Akshay Bharadwaj 6-27, Deepak Shridhar 2-7) lt to Sangam CA: 120/2 in 14.4 overs (Deepak Shridhar 60, Vinay Kumar K 39 n.o.).

Muddappa returns to Drag Nationals finale with eye on title

CHENNAI, PTI: After a measured first half of the season, ace Bengaluru biker Hemanth Muddappa will be returning this weekend with the title in mind as the final two rounds of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship gets underway here on Saturday.

Hemanth Muddappa

Riding for Mantra Racing, the 15-time National champion will once again saddle up across four premier categories as he chases yet another milestone season.

The rider, known across the paddock as India's 'Drag King', currently leads two of the four classes he contests and remains firmly in the hunt in the other two, keeping alive the prospect of adding multiple championships to an already unmatched resume.

All-round Vyom, Ved power Vidyaniketan home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Fine all-round performances from Vyom Naidu (61 & 5/30) and Ved Nahar (95 & 2/18) fashioned Vidyaniketan School's 156-run win over Jain International Residential School in a KSCA under-14 schools' (II Div) tournament for the B T Ramaiah Shield here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Vidyaniketan School: 274 all out in 45.3 overs (Vyom Naidu 61, Ved Nahar 95; Manan Bhavesh Jain 3-41, Rithvikgouda Biradar 5-23) bt Jain International Residential School: 118 all out in 36.1 overs (Avi Raj 28; Ibrahim Khan 2-8, Ved Nahar 2-18, Vyom Naidu 5-30).

Bishop Cotton Boys School: 162 all out in 49.1 overs (Milind Akash 30, Dhruv Sisodia 85; Sidharth Nayaka NS 2-17, J Mrinank 2-32, Ankith R 4-27) lt to Vidyaniketan Public School, B-56: 163/5 in 46 overs (Jashwanth M 45, Akshay N 25, Sidharth Nayaka N S 35 n.o.; Rishi K 3-26).

Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir, East: 328/7 in 50 overs (Atiksh Singh 96, Tejasvi Sharma 137, Abhyuday T 30; Vedik R 3-34, Ishan S 2-37) bt National Public School, B-61: 67 all out in 27 overs (Harshith Gowda S 26; Kodatala Sai Shravan Reddy 4-15, Rushil P Reddy 3-5).

BGS International Residential School: 213 all out in 42.5 overs (Daivik Gowda GB 31, Rachvik R Rao 46, Karthik Rathod 27; C Jaidev 3-35, Charith Baboor 2-29) lt to Clarence Public School, JP Nagar: 214/7 in 45.4 overs (Sathyamurthy 26, Aryamohan K 61 n.o., Charith Baboor 40 n.o.; Daivik Gowda 2-17, Rachvik R Rao 2-26, Tanush Y Prabhu 2-58).

Delhi Public School, Whitefield: 236 all out in 48.2 overs (Aadit Kaul 105, Vippagunta Venkata Ananta Arnav 32; Bhuvan Gowda 5-25, Hardik Reddy K 2-47) bt Triveni Memorial Educational Trust: 215 all out in 49.1 overs (Lagan Gowda 53, Yashraj A 61, Hardik Reddy K 27; Tathagata Karjee 2-39, VVA Arnav 2-56, Aadit Kaul 2-44).

Florence Public School: 140 all out in 33.3 overs (Mohammad Khan 38; Syed Ayman 3-33, Samyak 2-17, Pratham C 2-22) lt to Presidency School, Bangalore North: 141/2 in 23.1 overs (S Dakshan 41 n.o.).

St. Paul's English School: 241/8 in 50 overs (Vihaan Payappanavar 28, Saatvik Sanikop 26, Akshath Aravind 28, Gaurav Jeevan 87 n.o.; Musa Akhib Syed 2-29, Devvrat Olla 3-27, Atharv Shrivastav 2-64) bt Inventure Academy: 207 all out in 46.4 overs (Atharv Shrivastav 96, Musa Akhib Syed 41; Saatvik Sanikop 2-34, Vihaan Payappanavar 3-44, Praneek Dhiraj 2-26).

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Live music as part of the Christmas celebrations at The Quad by BLR, Terminal 1

It is that time of the year again. BLR Airport is back with the 12th edition of Season of Smiles, a festive gateway that brings travellers and visitors together to celebrate the spirit of Christmas and the much-awaited holiday season. This year, BLR Airport blends the magic of Christmas with the joy of travel through immersive festive decor, engaging live experiences at The Quad by BLR at Terminal 1 and the Arrival Forecourt at Terminal 2, in addition to thoughtfully-curated shopping and dining indulgences.

Grand start to festivities

The celebrations began with the lighting of the Christmas trees at both the terminals. At Terminal 1, this fun event was accompanied by soulful carols from a 40-member choir from *Freedom International School*. The performance set the tone for a month of festive programming across the airport.

Fashion showcase curated by Prasad Bidapa at T2

Fashion meets travel

Terminal 2 embraced the holiday spirit with an exclusive fashion showcase curated by designer *Prasad Bidapa*, featuring *Mr India World 2025, Shevam Singh,* as the showstopper. Curated collections from *Shoppers Stop* were presented against an eye-catching *Hamleys Christmas tree*, creating a chic, globally-styled setting that brought together high fashion and travel.

More fun events

Live music added energy to the celebrations. At The Quad by BLR, Terminal 1, guests enjoyed a vibrant performance by Painting Time, a pop-fusion band blending Bollywood melodies with rock influences.

One of the highlights of the season was the lively Christmas Parade, which stole the show with its dazzling floats, colourful performers, and the much-awaited arrival of Santa Claus. Meanwhile, the Arrival Forecourt, Terminal 2 has been transformed into a festive wonderland with a month-long Christmas Market offering gourmet treats and artisanal crafts.

Cinema and carols

Adding a unique twist to the holiday experience, an open-air cinema at the Arrival Forecourt, Terminal 2 treated travellers to a screening of *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*. On a chilly winter evening under a starlit sky, guests cozied up in warm seating and enjoyed the magic of cinema in a vibrant airport setting. Guests also shared holiday wishes at the *Himalaya Wellness Company* Wishing Tree at Terminal 2, domestic departures.

Further, the festive spirit soared as the *Sophia Chorale*, a 70-member choir from *Sophia High School*, filled the air with timeless Christmas carols, performing at the open-air stage, The Quad by BLR, Terminal 1. Later, the spotlight turned to Crosstalk, a Bengaluru-based trio that energised the evening with an eclectic blend of pop rock, soulful acoustic ballads, and nostalgic 80s synth-pop.

Looking ahead

The celebrations will continue at BLR Airport with a New Year's Eve event at The Quad by BLR, Terminal 1, featuring *Thihai*, a DJ act fused with live saxophone and percussion, followed by *Quadrock*, a multilingual band performing Bollywood hits, Indian pop and global chart-toppers. January will wrap up the season with another open-air movie night and a Linkin Park tribute.

Freedom International School's choir singing Christmas carols at the tree lighting ceremony at Terminal 1

Your glam guide for 2026

Lightweight is the way to go as we wing into 2026. Move aside OTT make-up, move in soft glamour. **Shilpi Madan** has some tips

Style File

Make this yours - a soft, natural radiance rather than heavy, full-coverage make-up. Says make up expert Anishaa Chhabria Madan, "The goal is skin that looks healthy and 'alive', with a finish that balances a natural glow with a soft-focus, semi-matte effect. This is achieved using lightweight, skin-first products such as tinted moisturisers, skin tints or serum foundations".

Eye it right

Prepping the lids and applying eye make-up before you begin with the rest of the face is a good idea. It allows you to remove traces of products that land on the under-eye area. "Use a transition shade in eye shadow – that is an in-between colour bridging your eye lid and the area around your eyes," says make-up artist Rakhee Bakshi. "This lets you keep the area neutral as a canvas when you play out the chosen colours on your lids."

"While bold eye make-up is trending for special events, everyday glamour uses warmer, neutral brown and peach tones to define the eyes softly. Naturally full and well-defined brows are preferred, using a tinted gel or wax for a fluffy look", adds Anishaa.

Fill in the brows with a brush. A pencil eyeliner multi-tasks as kajal, a smoky liner or smudged on the eyelids for a spot of drama.

Go glossy

Use a lip liner to outline the lips, using a spot of foundation to set the matte base. Follow up with the liner inside the lips, a bit more on the central part of the lower lip. "This is where the lipstick runs off the fastest," says Rakhee.

"Lips are either a soft, blurred-matte or have a high-shine, glossy finish using lip oils or sheer glosses," says Anishaa. Celestial shimmers and glossy finish are the signature looks for 2026 with pastel colours and lip stains ruling the popularity sweepstakes.

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Dwaraka Convention Hall, Nanjappa Circle, Vidyaranyapura Main Road, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore – 560097.
Sri Gururaja Kalyana Mantap, No. 29, Crescent Road, Near Shivananda Circle, Bangalore – 560001.
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DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. LOOKING AHEAD

Resolve to drop all negative baggage – memories, emotions and experiences – and plan to set off into the New Year on a positive note

LOOKING AHEAD

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

START WITH SMALL STEPS

Three resolutions you can keep are better than 10 that you will not. So, begin with practical and easy-to-meet resolutions. You will be motivated to include more in the course of the year when you find you are keeping your resolutions and they are helping. Document your achievements – there's nothing like success for inspiration to aim higher.

REWARD YOURSELF

Set benchmarks along the weeks and reward yourself whenever you achieve them. An example – if beginning on an exercise regimen is a resolution, buy yourself a smartwatch if you work-out regularly for three weeks. You need to be kind to yourself with your goals and achievements. This way, you will stay motivated and achieve your goals.

Resolutions for a healthy 2026

Every year, do you make resolutions that invariably crumble and are forgotten by the end of the first week of the New Year? Maybe, you can keep them if they are fewer, easier to stick to and realistic. Often, it's not the will power that lets you down, it's unrealistic and impossible resolutions that do. So, here are some for 2026 that you can surely make, and keep.

Diet resolutions you can keep

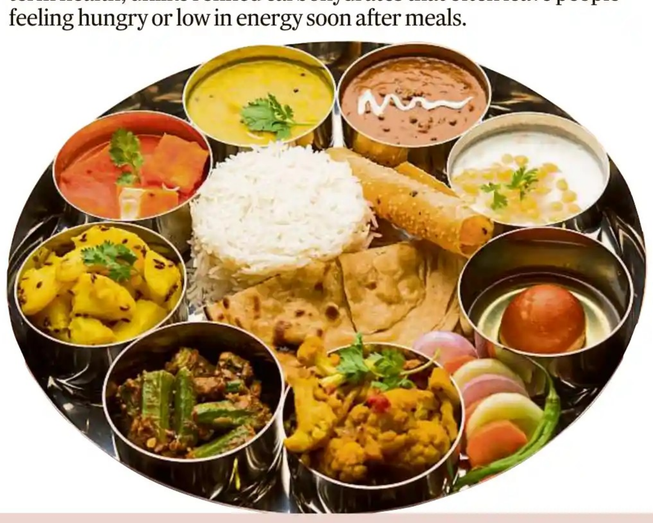
Clinical Dietitian **Jahnavi Bhograj** has three resolutions that will keep you fit through the New Year

Diet resolutions often arrive with great enthusiasm and unrealistic expectations. Promises of drastic detoxes, extreme work-outs or rigid food rules can create pressure to change everything overnight. Yet, lasting health rarely comes from dramatic shifts. It comes from simple, thoughtful habits practised consistently and adapted to individual needs.

Resolution I: Quality over quantity

The first resolution worth prioritising is focusing on diet quality rather than quantity. In today's nutrition conversations, carbohydrates often receive undue blame. However, the type of carbohydrate matters far more than the amount. Carbohydrates from whole grains, beans, fruits and vegetables provide fibre, essential nutrients and steady energy.

These foods support digestion, blood sugar balance and long-term health, unlike refined carbohydrates that often leave people feeling hungry or low in energy soon after meals.



Resolution II: Eat on time

A second important resolution is building regular food habits and a routine. Eating meals at consistent times helps regulate hunger, digestion and energy levels. More importantly, it helps you begin to listen to your body's signals. Noticing how you feel after meals - energised or sluggish, comfortably full or bloated - offers valuable insight.

Instead of changing everything at once, addressing one meal at a time, starting with dinner, can be far more effective. Finishing dinner earlier, increasing vegetables and fibre, and balancing the plate for a week allows the body to respond before changes are made to other meals.

Digestive patterns also provide important feedback. Frequent issues such as constipation, sticky stools, acidity or regular discomfort may signal that meal timing, hydration or fibre intake needs attention. Persistent cravings for larger portion sizes or frequent snacking often reflect imbalance rather than lack of discipline.

Home-cooked food remains one of the strongest pillars of good health. Preparing meals at home allows better control over ingredients, cooking methods and portion sizes, while preserving cultural and emotional connections to food.

As the year unfolds, the most effective diet is not the trendiest one but the one that fits your body, routine and life.

Resolution III: Physical activity

Another non-negotiable resolution is regular physical activity. Movement supports heart health, mental well-being, blood sugar control and sleep. Along with walking or aerobic activity, strength training plays a vital role by supporting muscle mass, bone health and metabolism.

Three good habits for a great 2026

Resolve to make these three qualities your habits and you will have a great year ahead, says **B S Manu Rao**

Habit I: Goal setting

Set a series of goals – monthly, weekly and daily. Make them simple and aimed at your highest priority achievements planned. Write them down and split them across the months – two at a time. Documenting your goals helps you stay focussed on them and move towards them in a planned and systematic manner. Even goals that are not so significant such as organising your workspace or living room at home can figure in the list.

This helps you achieve your dreams in the long run and is a great New Year resolution.

Habit II: Daily exercise

This is a habit that will always pay rich dividends. Set aside an hour and a half daily for exercise and stick to it. A couple of weeks later, it will be a habit you wouldn't want to break. Physical fitness is a basic necessity if you are to chase big dreams. Entrepreneurship or a successful career, you need to be fit to put in long hours and hard work.

So, use the New Year as an excuse to get it going.

Habit III: Time management

You can get a phenomenal amount of work done everyday if you manage your time well. Plan for the year one month at a time. Break them down further into weekdays and weekends. Slot your fixed activities – gym, hobby class etc. Plan your work and leisure with time slots and stick to the plan. In just a couple of weeks, you will find the difference and time management will become a habit. Spending time wisely is spending it effectively. With efficient time management you will get more done in 2026 and go closer to your lifetime goals.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

I HAVE SOME IDEAS FOR THE CAMP. SHOULD I SHOW THEM TO THE CAPTAIN ?
RUN IT UP THE FLAGPOLE AND SEE IF ANYONE SALUTES
GREG + MORT WALKER 5/9
WHAT'S ZERO DOING UP THERE?
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

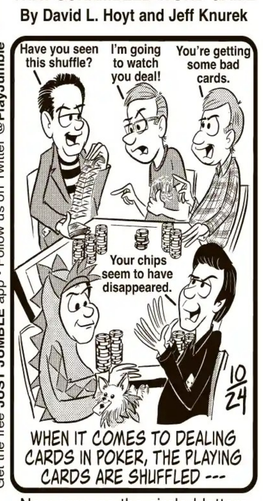
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RNIDK

KVOEE

BAHBYS

GTUFOH


Have you seen this shuffle?
I'm going to watch you deal!
You're getting some bad cards.
Your chips seem to have disappeared.
WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING CARDS IN POKER, THE PLAYING CARDS ARE SHUFFLED ---
10/24

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answer here:

Answers

DRINK EVOKE SHABBY FOUGHT

When it comes to dealing cards in poker, the playing cards are shuffled — BEFOREHAND

HITORI-127

4	2	8	7	3	5	3	4
6	1	4	5	5	8	4	3
3	6	1	5	4	4	6	7
4	6	2	5	3	7	5	4
5	4	1	6	2	4	1	5
3	3	6	4	7	1	4	2
4	8	5	1	5	3	3	6
5	5	4	2	1	4	7	8

SOLUTION for HITORI-127

8	7	4	1	2	■	5	■
6	■	3	■	1	5	8	4
2	4	1	7	■	6	3	■
■	1	■	2	6	■	4	5
4	5	7	3	■	2	6	■
7	6	■	4	5	1	■	3
3	■	8	5	■	4	1	6
■	3	5	■	7	8	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 128

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Something to eat and drink (5)
6 Tenor made unusually fit by a doctor (5)
9 Would he say absolutely anything for a cuppa? (7)
10 Perhaps a fatal attraction, ducky! (5)
11 Accommodation in the village (5)
12 Saw a figure ahead (5)
13 Are they flying when the potter has thrown them? (7)
15 With a certain amount of circumspection (3)
17 The story of my possibly fearless father! (4)
18 Silly capers causing minor damage (6)
19 Saint in charge of a Shakespearean clown (5)
20 The old place isn't quite the best (6)
22 Duck into bed with a bird (4)
24 That motherly woman? (3)
25 When a friend gets the last portion of fish (7)
26 Became aware of the sound of many animals (5)
27 The building of a tug? (5)
28 Not really the person to take a hand (5)
29 Keep going for a beer with some of the ladies (4,3)
30 One handy thing to have in a boat (5)
31 Forbids a cigarette the end to be included with the food! (5)

DOWN
2 Like the cricket match of the future? (3,3)
3 Spoil a drink (6)
4 Your unworthy conclusion (3)
5 Banks on finishing late in bars, drunk (5)
6 Break off the match (7)
7 Regain heartlessly, but with restraint (4)
8 Make sure there's no vacancy at the petrol station (4,2)
12 Goes and scores (5)
13 The common fellow hits out, perhaps, when many are taken in (5)
14 Express in absolute terms (5)
15 Carlo's girl? (5)
16 My consumption of fresh tea is very satisfying (5)
18 Stayed sound and sober (5)
19 Like a government agent supplied by an eccentric earl (7)
21 Brave enough to give the woman nothing, I see (6)
22 But he didn't rule the waves (6)
23 Dad's a dear fellow (3,3)
25 It can come forth when a pint is pulled (5)
26 It's infernally bad when he gets left behind again (4)
28 Confer knighthood? Indubitably! (3)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Broom of twigs (5)
6 Beast of burden (5)
9 Universal remedy (7)
10 Spiteful (5)
11 Shade of blue (5)
12 Big and strong (5)
13 Seemly behaviour (7)
15 Permit (3)
17 Boy's name (4)
18 Pleasure craft (6)
19 Happen (5)
20 Detective (6)
22 Lacking fat (4)
24 Nevertheless (3)
25 Varied (7)
26 Sum (5)
27 Axiom (5)
28 Healed (5)
29 Tympanic membrane (7)
30 Gain knowledge (5)
31 A brutal person (5)

DOWN
2 Tooth covering (6)
3 Choice (6)
4 Month (3)
5 Seraglio (5)
6 Tanned hide (7)
7 Indolent (4)
8 Small piece (6)
12 Intuitive feeling (5)
13 Type of plant (5)
14 Military trainee (5)
15 Light beer (5)
16 1000 kilograms (5)
18 Student (5)
19 Low padded seat (7)
21 Envoy (6)
22 A pod (6)
23 Evaluate (6)
25 Beau (5)
26 Row (4)
28 Young fox (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 128

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Toast 6, Dr-ift 9, Char-ile 10, Decoy 11, Villa 12, Tenon 13, aucers 15, Cum 17, My-th 18, Scrape 19, Fe-St-e 20, Thebes 22, C-O-ot 24, Her 25, Fin-ally 26, Heard (herd) 27, Tower 28, Dummy 29, La-st out 30, Scull 31, B-e-ans.
DOWN: 2, One day 3, Scotch 4, Thy 5, Bra-e-s 6, Divorce 7, Re-in 8, Fill up 12, Tries 13, S-M-ith 14, Utter 15, Carol 16, M-eat-y 18, Staid 19, Fed-eral 21, Her-O-ic 22, Canute 23, Old man 25, Froth 26, He-LL 28, Dub.

EASY
ACROSS: 1 Besom, 6 Llama, 9 Panacea, 10 Catty, 11 Azure, 12 Hefty, 13 Decorum, 15 Let, 17 Alan, 18 Pedalo, 19 Occur, 20 Sleuth, 22 Lean, 24 Yet, 25 Diverse, 26 Total, 27 Maxim, 28 Cured, 29 Eardrum, 30 Learn, 31 Beast.
DOWN: 2 Enamel, 3 Option, 4 May, 5 Harem, 6 Leather, 7 Lazy, 8 Morsel, 12 Hunch, 13 Daisy, 14 Cadet, 15 Lager, 16 Tonne, 18 Pupil, 19 Ottoman, 21 Legate, 22 Legume, 23 Assess, 25 Dandy, 26 Tier, 28 Cub.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. VARIETY

Reward yourself whenever you achieve a target or reach a milestone through the year. It keeps you motivated to stay on course

BROWNIE POINTS

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

PLAN FOR SETBACKS

Life is never predictable. There could always be a downturn. So, budget for some setbacks that may happen in the course of the New Year. Build a contingency fund you can fall back on. Set up a support system as a back-up. Evaluate your risk appetite very carefully. Don't take risks if you cannot afford a financial setback.

FOCUS ON FITNESS

Good health and fitness are key factors for success in life. Don't burn yourself out while chasing your dreams. Life is a long-distance run, not a short sprint. Make time for your health and fitness every day. Set aside some quality time to unwind and rejuvenate. You need to be in peak mental and physical condition through 2026.

Aiming **High**

Time to plan

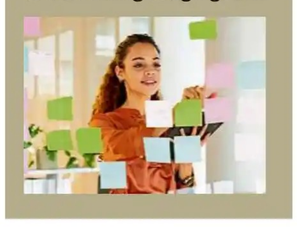
Often, people reflect on a year that's gone by and feel more could have been achieved with better planning. Why not make efficient planning a habit for the coming year? And what better time than now to get going on plotting your success graph? All you need to do is go about it methodically with a broad view as the base.

GOAL SETTING

Begin with setting your goals for the coming year. Don't make the mistake of going overboard with too many goals or unrealistic targets. Set three or four goals to be achieved by the end of the year. Take a day or two to think deep and arrive at the goals that fit into your overall lifetime plans. Set about working towards them from the very first day of 2026.

CREATE MILESTONES

Track your progress by setting monthly milestones to be achieved. This way, you will ensure you are on course to achieving your goals. It gives you the time and direction to course-correct as and when needed. Steady progress motivates you to keep at it. Remember, perseverance is the key to achieving tough goals.



Be flexible

If you find that you aren't making enough progress with one goal, don't hesitate to ditch it for another one. There's no rule that you cannot change lanes mid-year. What matters is you achieve the goals you set – so don't waste time with those that you aren't going to achieve. Pursuing something into a dead-end will only demotivate you.

BUDGET FOR RESOURCES

A major aspect of any plan is resources. It may be finance, people or even infrastructure. Ensure you track your needs of resources as you plan and work towards achieving them. You don't want to go a long way and find you can't make the last mile for want of resources. Track your finances and support systems along the way.

Power of fashion

Dressing for work is all about subtle nuances that say a lot. Jayanthi Madhukar has a guide

Office **Wear**

In the world of fashion, it is often the smallest details that make the loudest statements. The jewellery you wear, the sunglasses you choose, the handbag you carry – all speak volumes before you do. In the hands of a power dresser, the strongest elements of an outfit are rarely the boldest. Instead, they are the subtle, intentional accents that convey authority with ease. These accessories do the heavy lifting in the professional world, bridging the gap between fashion and style while creating a lasting first impression.

Watch your style

Even in an age when few people rely on

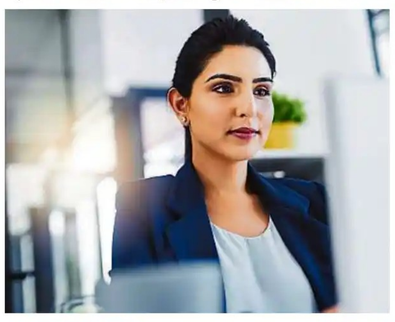
wristwatches to tell the time, a power dresser understands the impact of a well-chosen timepiece. Some describe watches as micro-accessories – discreet details that complete an outfit with confidence, taste and refinement.

A stylish watch suggests elegance and power, especially to those who know how to recognise it. Its greatest strength lies in versatility - the right piece works effortlessly across dress codes, whether paired with a sharp suit or a tailored dress.

K R Mohan, a collector of watches, categorises his collection by occasion. "I wear my old faithful whenever I have to attend an important meeting or visit clients because it creates quite an impression," he says. "It was given to me by my uncle, who wore it almost all his life. It is vintage, yet it still works perfectly."

Glittering definitions

One of the golden rules of power dressing is restraint. If the wristwatch and belt are already statement pieces, jewellery should whisper rather than shout. The goal is cohesion, allowing each accessory to stand out in harmony without competing for attention.



"Power dressing should impress, not distract," Khushi notes. Opt for clean lines and refined finishes when selecting jewellery for work or formal events. Think solitaire studs, delicate bracelets, simple brooches or minimalist chains that frame the face and neckline elegantly. The effect is controlled, confident and quietly memorable.

Put your best foot forward

There are certain guidelines on footwear for power dressing – clean lines, pointed toes and few or nil embellishments are ideal. Classic styles like pumps, loafers, lace up boots and block heels are great options to impress without compromising on

comfort. Fashion experts advice selecting footwear that cover the feet, is well-polished or maintained and has no scuffed soles.

As with belts, footwear must reflect polish and purpose.

Belt it

Never underestimate the quiet power of a classic belt which can sharpen the outfit quietly and emphatically. A

minimal black or brown design with understated gold or silver hardware – no logos necessary – can elevate the silhouette with elegance.

Stylist Khushi advises choosing a belt that blends seamlessly with the outfit rather than interrupting the visual line, making eyes stop abruptly at the belt. "However, details matter," she stresses. "The material and buckle are integral to the selection, so ensure you stick to classic styles and finishes for workwear." She recommends slightly wider belts in neutral tones – black, brown, tan or deep hues – to complement the professional palettes of power dressing.

GLITZ & GLAM 2026

Fox in the Field has a line-up of craft brews, curated food and high-energy entertainment to ring in the New Year with family and friends

Party **Time**

As Bengaluru gears up to welcome 2026, Fox in the Field, Whitefield's much-loved microbrewery and social hub, is set to host a New Year's Eve celebration 'Glitz & Glam 2026' that promises to be bold, energetic and unforgettable. Expansive multi-level setting, craft brews and lively atmosphere... Fox in the Field is pulling out all the stops to ensure guests usher in the New Year in true celebratory style.

This New Year's Eve, Fox in the Field will transform into a high-energy party destination, blending music, brews and curated experiences across its signature spaces. The evening will feature a power-packed music line-up with DJs Vasi and Harry, and live music by Neville & Natasha - commercial hits and party anthems, building momentum right up to the midnight countdown. The venue recreates the vibe of a large-city celebration while retaining the warmth of a neighbourhood favourite.

At the heart of the celebration is Fox in the Field's craft beer and culinary portfolio, which have earned a loyal following over the years. You can look forward to brews, classic favourites and special New Year cocktail menus designed exclusively for the night. Complementing the drinks will be a specially-curated food menu, featuring crowd-friendly bar bites and comfort favourites, ensuring there's something for everyone as the night unfolds.

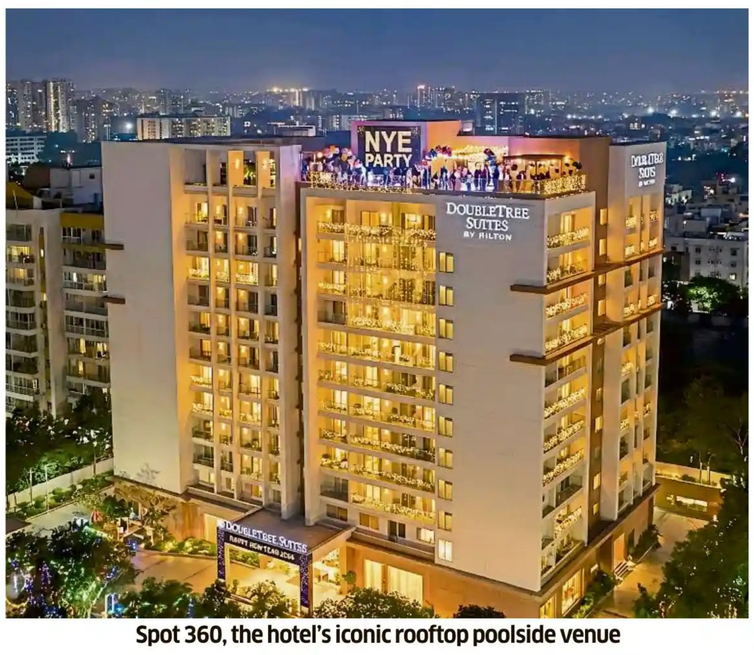
What sets Fox in the Field apart is its ability to cater to diverse partygoers under one roof. Whether it's groups of friends looking to dance the night away, corporate teams celebrating together or couples and families seeking a vibrant and comfortable New Year's Eve plan, the venue's multiple levels allow you to choose your own pace and party style.

New Year's Eve has always been one of their most anticipated nights of the year. "Our aim is to create a safe, high-energy and well-managed celebration where people can truly let loose and welcome the New Year with great music, great drinks and food, and of course, great company", says Abhay Kewadkar, investor and co-founder Fox in the Field.

Tickets are available on leading event platforms - District by Zomato, Bookmyshow, Highape, Swiggy, and at the venue. For those looking to bid farewell to the year gone by and step into 2026 with music, cheer and handcrafted delights, Fox in the Field is clearly one of Whitefield's top places to be this New Year's Eve.

USHER IN 2026 UNDER THE STARS

Rooftop party, exclusive cabana, staycation make for a unique New Year's Eve at DoubleTree Suites by Hilton



Spot 360, the hotel's iconic rooftop poolside venue

Party **Time**

As the countdown to 2026 begins, DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Bengaluru Outer Ring Road sets the stage for an unforgettable New Year's Eve celebration. The party unfolds at Spot 360, the hotel's iconic rooftop poolside venue, where the city skyline becomes the backdrop for a glamorous New Year's Eve party under the stars. A pulsating DJ night, immersive lighting and an electric countdown atmosphere transform the rooftop into one of the most happening destinations in the city. You can sip on curated cocktails, enjoy gourmet indulgences and dance their way into the New Year by the pool.

For a private celebration, exclusive poolside cabanas are available, accommodating up to 15 guests. Designed for intimate, yet lavish celebrations, each cabana comes with personalised butler service, champagne for midnight toasts and a dedicated private bar, offering a seamless blend of exclusivity, comfort and celebration.

Adding to the celebration, the hotel's signature dining destinations - Asia Alive and Tapeo - offer a parallel festive journey. You can enjoy a lavish New Year's Eve gala dinner accompanied by engaging entertainment, including live music and a DJ zone. A thoughtfully designed Kids Zone ensures young guests are entertained throughout the evening, allowing parents to party tension-free.

What makes this celebration truly complete is the thoughtfully curated New Year's Eve staycation experience. The staycation allows you to celebrate at your own pace and retire to the comfort of spacious rooms and suites once the night winds down. The experience includes an overnight stay on double occupancy, access to the New Year's Eve gala dinner and a relaxed breakfast the following morning making it a perfect blend of celebration and comfort.

The evening is further elevated with premium beverage partnerships, featuring Grey Goose, Bombay Sapphire, Dewar's and Patron, a refined edge to the festivities and ensuring an exceptional bar experience throughout the night.

For reservations call +91 8050 887 487 / +91 8971 418 730 or email BLROR_FB@Hilton.com

The Wellness Co: Integrative wellness for bridal prep

Advanced medical aesthetics, regenerative therapies, recovery technologies and preventive wellness help brides and grooms look and feel their best

In India, bridal prep has undergone a quiet but significant transformation. What was once driven by salon rituals, spa days and last-minute glow fixes is now evolving into a more considered, science-led journey - one that prioritises long-term results over instant enhancement. Today's brides and grooms want sustained energy, balance and confidence. At the heart of this shift is The Wellness Co., India's first integrative luxury wellness clinic, where beauty meets medical science to redefine modern bridal preparation.

According to research from the Global Wellness Institute, the global wellness economy has surged to USD 6.8 trillion, growing 35 per cent since 2019, and is projected to reach USD 9.8 trillion by 2029. Wellness spending today accounts for nearly 60 per cent of all global health and medical expenditures.

Now, with heightened awareness around health, longevity and preventive care, couples are turning to integrated solutions that address the body from the inside out. The Wellness Co. offers a holistic and highly technical approach, bringing together advanced medical aesthetics, regenerative therapies, recovery technologies and preventive wellness.

With 14 centres across eight cities, The Wellness Co. merges technology with hospitality to offer a deeply immersive wellness experience. From CryoTherapy, Red Light Therapy, IV Drips, Infrared Sauna, PEMF, Oxygen Therapy, to

Collagen Bed sessions, and more, every therapy is crafted to rejuvenate at a cellular level - enhancing skin health, accelerating recovery, reducing inflammation, boosting energy, improving sleep and helping individuals look and feel their best.

"Our goal is to help brides and grooms feel resilient, energised, and confident - not just for the wedding day, but well beyond it", says Rishabh Jain, Co-founder. "By combining diagnostics, globally approved technology and personalised care, we're shifting the conversation from cosmetic enhancement to true wellbeing", adds Rohan Jain, Co-founder.

Stepping into The Wellness Co. feels more like entering a refined wellness sanctuary. Design-led interiors, calming palettes and private treatment rooms create an atmosphere of discretion and comfort, while USFDA- and CE-approved technologies power every protocol, ensuring global standards of safety and efficacy.

For more details:
Website: www.thewellnessco.in
Instagram: thewellnessco.intl

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LOOKING AHEAD

Reserve a special attire for Mondays. It will be a mood enhancer that stretches through the day

WORK WISE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

MONDAY TREAT

Reserve something pleasant for Mondays. It can be your favourite breakfast dish or catching up with an old friend after work. Create a 'Monday playlist' of your all-time favourite songs to listen to on the way back home. Having something to look forward to at the end of the day helps you get through it better.

GET SOME AIR

Set up an outdoor Monday routine. Take a break mid-day with a 15-minute leisurely walk. It is great if you can get a like-minded colleague to join you daily. Perhaps a walk after lunch for a cup of coffee. The outdoors and break from office environs will lift your mood and give you the relief you need.

Bright **Mondays**

Beat the blues

Have you battled the Monday morning blues through 2025? We've put together some tips to help you beat it in 2026. It's so much better to head out to work on Mondays feeling high and bright. Here are some ways to prep for a week of hectic schedules and high pressure.

PREP ON SUNDAY

Get into the new week mood on Sunday night. Let the week begin even before Monday comes. All you need to do is get something for Monday morning ready on Sunday night. It could be your attire with tie and briefcase. Pack your laptop and keep it ready if you have used it on the weekend. You can 'slip into Monday' easily.

HAPPY ALARM

You will feel better if your morning alarm is pleasing – maybe a favourite tune or even a jingle. A shrill, jarring alarm only reminds you it's Monday and you have a hectic schedule ahead with tough meetings lined up. A song to wake you up creates the mood you need to face the Monday you get up to.

Messages later

Don't grab the phone and check your appointments and schedule as soon as you wake up on Monday morning. Get into the work mood slowly. Let the coffee, walk or any other happy morning routine you have come first. Enjoy the early mornings and breakfast first, and get into the work frame when it's time to.

PLAN SCHEDULES

If you can, schedule the easier and more pleasant tasks first. Get into the work format and then look into more difficult matters you have to grapple with. Dealing with a difficult customer first thing on a Monday morning isn't the best way to begin a week. Schedule tough presentations for the post-lunch session.

Treat for the NEW YEAR

PIC COURTESY: VANILLA BEANS

Deepa Natarajan Lobo gets home-baker Deepa Desai to share a recipe for a traditional eggless cake you can bake at home for the New Year party

Tasty **Byte**

As the kitchen comes alive with spices and warmth, it's the traditional fruit cake that takes centre-stage, filling the home with aromas of nostalgia and joy, this time of the year. Made with dried fruits such as black currant, golden raisin, fig, date and cranberry which are submerged in aged rum and warm spices, and traditionally left to rest for four to six months, it is infused with complex, layered flavours that simply cannot be rushed.

However, if you don't have the time for the long soak, you need not worry as your cake can still come together beautifully with a one-day soak.

What you need

For the rum-soaked fruits (Begin 4-6 months ahead for best results, or minimum one day):

- Two cups of mixed premium dried fruits (black currant, golden raisin, chopped date, dried fig, dried cranberry)
- Half a cup of aged rum
- A teaspoon of mixed spice blend (cinnamon, nutmeg, clove)
- Zest of an orange

For the cake:

- One and a half cups of all-purpose flour
- One teaspoon each of baking powder and pure vanilla extract
- Half a teaspoon each of baking soda and cinnamon powder
- Quarter teaspoon each of nutmeg and clove powder
- One-third cup of neutral oil
- Half a cup each of fresh yogurt/curd (room temperature), brown sugar or caster sugar and roasted cashews (roughly chopped)
- Three-fourths teaspoon of caramel colour
- Additional cashews for garnish

Preparation:

Step I: Prepare fruits
Combine all dried fruits, rum, spice blend and orange zest in an airtight glass jar. Seal tightly and store in a cool, dark place. Shake gently every few days. For one-day soak, prepare the night before baking. While not as intensely flavoured, this still produces a beautifully moist cake.

Step II: Prepare dry mix
Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg and clove powder. Set aside.

Step III: Create wet mix
In a large mixing bowl, whisk together oil, yogurt, sugar and vanilla extract until sugar dissolves and mixture is smooth and well-combined (approximately 2-3 minutes).

Step 4: Combine
Gently fold the dry ingredients into the wet mixture using a spatula. Mix until just combined -do not overmix. The batter should be thick, but pourable. Add caramel colour and fold through for even distribution.

Step V: Add soaked fruits
Drain the rum-soaked fruits lightly (reserve the rum for brushing later). Fold the fruits and chopped cashews gently into the batter, distributing evenly.

Step VI: Bake
Preheat oven to 160-degree C (320-degree F). Grease and line an eight-inch round or square cake tin with parchment paper. Pour batter into prepared tin and tap gently to release air bubbles. Garnish top with additional cashew pieces.

Bake for 60-65 minutes, or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. If the top browns too quickly, cover loosely with foil after 40 minutes.

Step VII: Final touch
Once baked, while still warm, brush the top generously with reserved rum from the soaked fruits. Allow to cool completely in the tin.

Yoga to power your dreams

Strength, flexibility and a calm mind are priceless as you chase new dreams in 2026. Yoga therapist Krupa Patel has some simple asanas you can practice at home for all the three

Stretching **Out**

Tree Pose

This asana helps you stay grounded. It gives you a sense of stability. This pose gives your mind some much-needed calm and focus. It also gives you inner balance.

Method: Stand on one leg with the other folded and the foot on the inner thigh of the leg you are standing on. Bring your palms together over your head in a namaste position. Focus on a point in front of you with normal breathing, holding the pose for a few seconds. Repeat five times.

WARRIOR POSE

This asana strengthens your arms, shoulders, thighs and back muscles. Practicing this pose builds your inner strength and determination too. It gives you the confidence you need to venture into new beginnings.

Method: Stand with one leg stretched to a side and the other bent to make a right angle from the floor. Spread out your arms straight from your shoulders. Hold the position with normal breathing for a few seconds and relax. Repeat five times.

CAMEL POSE

This asana stretches your chest, abdomen and spine. The stretch increases your lung capacity and boosts digestion. It opens up your mind, helping you make the most of new opportunities coming your way in the New Year. It also helps you adapt to change easily.

Method: Kneel and place your palms on your heels. As you inhale bend backwards and as you exhale come back to an upright position. Repeat five times.

Vanity caddy 2026

Make-up artist **Anishaa Chhabria Madan** marks eight super cool must-haves for the upcoming year

1. **Eyebrow mascara**
You need it to define those lines with a single sweep.

2. **Tinted moisturisers**
For awesome skin hydration and perfect glow.

3. **Liquid blush**
To highlight those cheekbones in a smooth upsweep.

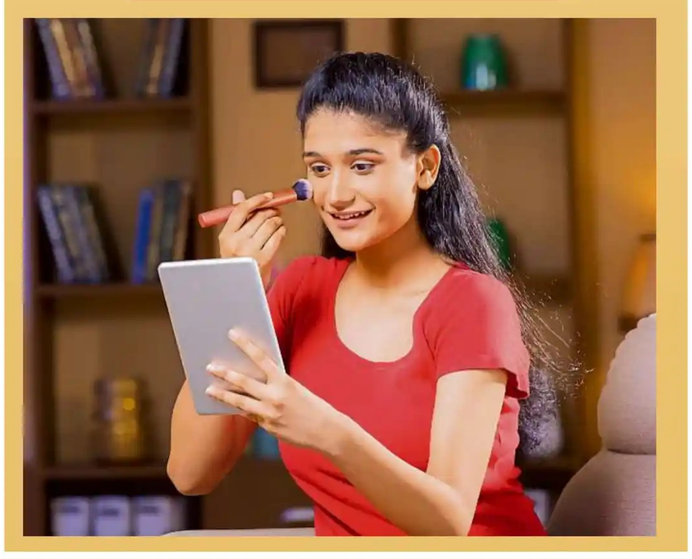
4. **Lip plumpers**
For fuller lips that rule your face.

5. **Highlighters**
To play up your plus points with a secret glow.

6. **Volume mascara**
For thickening the lashes and looking dramatic.

7. **Setting sprays or mists**
To hold the make-up in place, fuss-free and long-term.

8. **Lip liners**
For the perfect contours and signature appeal.



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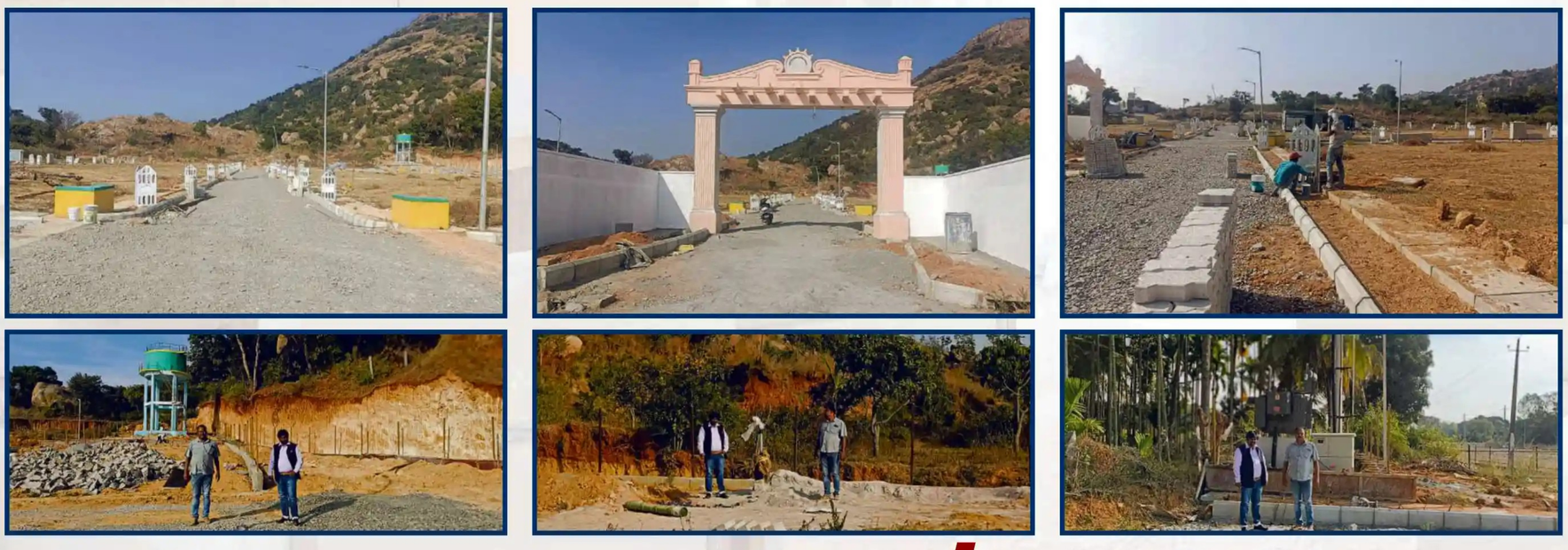

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PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/150224/006622 G+14
WHITEFIELD
SOUKYA ROAD
₹ 70.65 L - 1.06 Cr*
8880 461 461

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 G+14
BANNERGHATTA RD.
NEAR KOPPA GATE
₹ 62.42 - 82.18 Lakhs*
8880 013 310

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 G+4
SARJAPURA
SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD
₹ 63.60 - 83.25 Lakhs*
8880 003 003

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 G+14
MYSORE ROAD
NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO STN.
₹ 67.28 - 95.28 Lakhs*
8880 461 461

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CREDAI BENGALURU

FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

We Manage and Maintain Your Apartment

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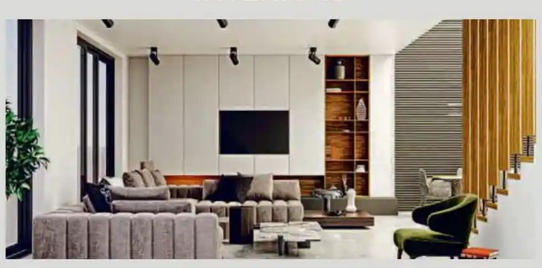
INTERIORS



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9164 056 000

REFER A DS MAX HOME

Refer a buyer to earn big

9164 043 000

REFER A LAND TO DS MAX

Offer a Land, Get a Home.

8880 463 463

Classifieds

More value, more impact

RERA NO. PRM/KA/RERA/1250/307/PR/280324/006755

ARVIND PROPERTIES

Mr. M.K. Ashok

E - Khata

BMRDA & RERA Approved

Ready for Registration

Bank Loan Available

YOUR PLOT
JUST MINUTES FROM
THE UPCOMING METRO

Apartment-living facilities

Within a plotted development

with an iconic
CLUB HOUSE
50,000 sqft (G+4)
that redefines
comfort and class.

50 Acres Project | **900** Premium Plots

PROXIMITY

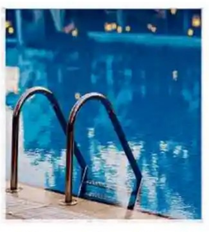
- In the vicinity of proposed International Airport.
- Strategically located near Dabaspet industrial area.
- Minutes away from upcoming Metro and Economic Corridors.
- Located on the Intermediate Ring Road, with a newly upgraded double road ensuring seamless connectivity.
- Close to the City's future - Knowledge Health Innovation Research-City (KHIR-City) Project.

Ready-to-build plots

Start your dream home construction from **April**

Children's Play Area

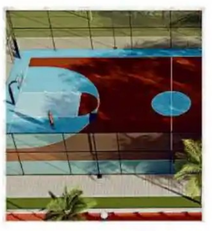
Open Gymnasium


Swimming Pool

Lawn Tennis Court

Temple

Jogging & Cycling Track


Basketball Court

Recreational Parks

Amphitheatre

Nelamangala
Sondekoppa Road

99986 08666

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